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*LONG ISLAND EDUCATION COALITION and the LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION*

**LONG ISLAND SCHOOLS - THE PRIDE OF NEW YORK STATE  
DESPITE INEQUITABLE STATE SUPPORT**

In 1995, the Long Island Association (LIA) joined forces with the Long Island Education Coalition (LIEC) to conduct research that would analyze the true cost and outcomes associated with Long Island Schools. Their joint efforts brought to light a fundamental flaw in the allocation of state aid across the State i.e., the total disregard for significant regional cost differences within the State. Over the past fifteen years, changes to the state aid system have occurred, however, realistic regional cost adjustments have not been incorporated in a meaningful manner.

Today, the LIA and LIEC still agree on the three key facts that set the stage for further collaboration back in 1995:

- Long Island schools do not receive an appropriate amount of state aid because regional cost differences are not considered in the distribution of aid.
- The per pupil cost of education on Long Island is comparable to other regions of the State.
- Long Island students out perform students from across the State.

As a result of a true ongoing collaborative effort, the eighth update of *Long Island Education: Costs and Outcomes* is being released by the LIA and the LIEC. These two groups have once again presented a comprehensive report that has proven to be critically important to our region over the past 15 years. According to LIEC Co-Chair Judith Chen, "The simple, straightforward idea behind this major effort continues to be the same today as it was in 1995: Let's work with the facts, and let the facts support our position. Early on, we agreed to use only verified data from New York State sources and have continued that practice over the years."

Matthew Crosson, the President of the LIA, said, "The results of this approach have been consistent over the history of the collaboration. From day one, we found that Long Island students outperform students from across New York State, and that regional cost differences disadvantage Long Island when it comes to state aid allocations, and presentation of comparative expense data."

The "Costs and Outcomes" report...

...includes only verified data from New York State offices, agencies, and

departments.

...was originally issued in 1996 and has been updated eight times.

...was incorporated into the LIA's strategic plan for Long Island, ***Innovate Long Island***, in 2006.

...was previously expanded to quantify the resources and achievement gaps between Long Island's wealthiest and least wealthy school districts.

...is prepared by representatives of both the Long Island Association and the Long Island Education Coalition.

Key findings include:

- By every measure maintained by the State Education Department, Long Island students outperform students from across the state, whether or not New York City is included.
- Statewide comparisons of student outcome data mask a very dramatic achievement and resource gap between Long Island's wealthiest and least wealthy school districts.
- When adjusted to account for regional cost differences, the per pupil cost of education on Long Island is below the cost of the County at the state median (Rensselaer).
- Long Island enrolls 18% of the state's students, but receives only 12% of state aid to school districts.
- More than half of the students in Suffolk County are enrolled in school districts that fall below the state wealth average. On Long Island a third of all students are in such districts.
- Only 24% of Long Island school district expenses are funded by the state. The share in the rest of the state, outside of New York City, is 41%.
- Long Islanders use 20% more of their gross household income to pay property taxes than New Yorkers in general.
- Long Islanders pay 31% of all New York State sales tax, outside of NYC.
- Long Islanders pay 37% of all New York State income tax, outside of NYC.

Suffolk County School Superintendents Association Legislative Chairperson Gary Bixhorn who, along with Matthew Crosson, has been involved with the development of the report since it was first published said, "As a result of this work, we have opened the door to having regional cost differences factored into the state

aid formulas. Although these differences are now being acknowledged, they are not being fully accounted for. In addition, this work has caused us to take a closer look at the inequities that exist within our region based upon school district wealth. In an earlier update, we were one of the first to quantify the existence of resource and achievement gaps between Long Island's wealthiest and least wealthy school districts".

Vincent Lyons, the other LIEC Co-Chair said, "Now, more than ever, as New York State faces unprecedented fiscal challenges, it is important that we focus on the facts to craft meaningful strategies to identify and equitably address our needs. We prepared this latest update to inform the discussion that will continue as we work together to assure that our region's most prized asset, our schools, can continue to prepare our children to become tomorrow's leaders."

Copies of the report can be found at

<http://www.esboces.org/doc/LI%20Ed%20Cost%20and%20Outcomes%20April%202010%20web.pdf>.