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**Economist's Study Reveals Devastating Impact of Governor's
Proposed State Aid Cuts on Long Island's Economy**

"The proposed cuts in state aid (to Long Island) of \$157 million will negatively impact not only the school districts, but also the Long Island regional economy," economist Thomas Conoscenti, Ph.D., stated in a report, *Education: An Economic Powerhouse: School District Operations and Long Island's Economy*. "This will prolong the expansion of the Long Island economy and its recovery from this recession," he said.

Dr. Conoscenti will release the report on Tues., Jan. 27, at a gathering of 170 Long Island educators at a conference on *Confronting and Managing Financial Challenges*.

"This economic study should be mandatory reading for the decision-makers so they fully understand the far-reaching consequences of the massive, disproportional pull back of funding to the region's schools," Jim Kaden, president of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association (N-SSBA) said. "We can't be expected to bear the burden of the state deficit and survive to play a critical role in its economic recovery," he added.

Dr. Conoscenti's report reveals that the proposed state aid cuts in the amount of \$157.2 million could result in a direct loss of 2,926 school district jobs, and an indirect loss of an additional 2,605 support jobs, for a loss of more than 5,531 jobs on Long Island. It would likely impact the region's economy by -\$447.2 million.

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Report on Economic Impact of State Aid Cuts – add one

“Massive cuts in state aid to Long Island schools, as this report shows, will not only hurt children, but will punish workers and families in many businesses that will be affected by the loss of millions of dollars, causing the economy to fall deeper into recession as more people lose their jobs,” Dr. Joseph Del Rosso, Executive Director, SCOPE Education Services said.

“This report challenges the presumption that Long Island can withstand Governor Paterson’s school funding cuts without serious damage being inflicted on our fragile economy,” said Dr. Thomas Shea, president of the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association. “Our region cannot afford to suffer the consequences of short-sighted funding decisions that ignore the role highly regarded schools must play in enabling Long Island to emerge from the current crisis,” he added.

In addition to Dr. Conoscenti’s presentation, Long Island Association President Matthew Crosson will serve as the keynote speaker at the conference.

Dr. Thomas Conoscenti & Associates, Inc., was commissioned by the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association (N-SSBA), the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association (SCSSA) and SCOPE Education Services to develop the report.