



NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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TO: Long Island NYS Senate and Assembly Delegations

FROM; Jay L.T. Breakstone, President
James March, President-Elect

RE: NYS Local School Levy Cap

Driven in large part by the State's reductions in school aid, many Long Island communities have seen this year's relatively modest school budget increases escalate into disproportionately high increases in local property tax levies. In some school districts, the ability to tap remaining reserve funds helped to forestall the impact of state aid cuts on the local tax levy.

As Long Island saw its state school aid slashed, our school boards faced up to their share of responsibility to contain local property tax increases.

Is the punishment for this commendable fiscal responsibility to be the cessation of Long Island's local control of its schools to the powers in Albany?

The decision to impose an ill-conceived school levy cap should not be determined by state legislators all too anxious to close a session that has been devoid of thoughtful, public reflection on the consequences of this controversial issue.

NO SCHOOL LEVY CAP WITHOUT COMMENSURATE RELIEF FROM STATE MANDATES AND COST-DRIVERS!

NO SCHOOL LEVY CAP THAT DEFIES DEMOCRACY BY IMPOSING A SUPER-MAJORITY REQUIREMENT FOR SCHOOL SUPPORT!

NO SCHOOL LEVY CAP THAT PERPETUATES THE SHORT-CHANGING OF LONG ISLAND'S RIGHTFUL STATE SCHOOL AID!