

4.2

MID-HUDSON SCHOOL STUDY COUNCIL



MHSSC
Mount St. Mary College
330 Powell Avenue
Newburgh, NY 12550
TEL: (845) 569-3660 FAX: (845) 569-3662
robert.dillon@msmc.edu lynne.cruger@msmc.edu
Web: www.midhudsonssc.org

MHSSC OFFICERS 2014-2015

President
Roberta Greane, Superintendent
Washingtonville CSD
Vice President
Nancy Hackett, Superintendent
Sullivan West CSD
Treasurer
Lois Powell, Superintendent
Spackenkill UFSD
Past President
Joseph Phelan, Superintendent
Rhinebeck CSD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Kevin Castle, Superintendent
Walkkill CSD
Valencia Douglas, Superintendent
Pocantico Hills CSD
Robert Dufour,
Elfred CSD
Ileana Eckert, Superintendent
Haverstraw-Stony Point CSD
John Evans, Superintendent
Roscoe CSD
Paul Finch, Superintendent
Rad Hook
Deborah Fox, Superintendent
Livingston Manor CSD
Deborah Haab, Superintendent
Highland CSD
Martin Handler,
Pine Plains CSD
Richard Hooley, Superintendent
Valley Central CSD
Debra Jackson, Superintendent
Highland Falls CSD
Ivan Katz, Superintendent
Fallsburg CSD
Kelly Lappan, Board Member
Arlington CSD
Sean Michel, Superintendent
Chester UFSD
Diane Munro, Superintendent
Florida UFSD
Rosemary Pitruzzella, Board Member
South Orangetown CSD
James Ryan, Superintendent
Carmel CSD
Dottie Slattery, Board Member
Orange/Ulster BOCES
Michael Tierney, Superintendent
Dover UFSD
Alyce Van Eiten, Board Member
Monticello CSD
Lisa Wiles, Superintendent
Ellenville CSD
Peggy Zugba, Board Member
No. Rockland CSD, Rockland BOCES

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Anne Byrne, NYSSBA Past President
Edward McCormick, NYSSBA Past President
Carl Onken, NYSSBA Past President
Anne Carson Daly, President
Mount Saint Mary College
Donald Christian, President
SUNY New Paltz
Dolores Berlinghoff
Education Division, MSMC
Michael Rosenberg
School of Education, SUNY New Paltz
Charles Khoury
Ulster BOCES
Mary Jean Marston, District Superintendent
Rockland BOCES
Harold Coles, District Superintendent
Southern Westchester BOCES
William Hecht, District Superintendent
Orange-Ulster BOCES
John Pennoyer, District Superintendent
Dutchess BOCES
Larry Thomas, District Superintendent
Sullivan BOCES

HONORARY MEMBERS

William F. Moran*
Susan Doyle

STAFF

Lynne Cruger, Assistant to the Director
Robert R. Dillon, Executive Director
TBD, Director of Legislative Analysis
Terrence Olivo, Research Director

*Deceased

July 2014

Dear Colleague,

As you know our organization this year has joined forces with the Rural Schools Association, Statewide School Finance Consortium, and R.E.F.I.T. in a collaborative effort to lobby for the adequate and equitable distribution of state aid. Now we need to join forces to raise our collective voice about our strong commitment for the immediate removal of the GEA. This year, the New York State Education Reform Commission chose not to address the topic of funding public education. Dr. John Yinger from Syracuse University's, Maxwell School of Public Policy Professor, stated in his testimony to the commission: "With one important but seemingly temporary exception (implementation of the Foundation Formula) the policy choices made by New York State over the last 15 years have made funding disparities worse. Moreover, without dramatic changes in education funding policy, these disparities are on track to widen substantially in the years ahead."

Additionally, we believe that an independent commission, a Berger style Commission (<http://observer.com/2006/04/meet-the-hospital-hatchet-man-toughtalkin-stephen-berger-2/>) needs to be convened with the sole purpose of developing a fair and equitable distribution of state aid that provides for a sound basic education for all students. A national study completed by Dr. Bruce Baker, of Rutgers University, that compared school funding systems for all fifty states gave New York a grade of A on two critical school funding measures--Funding Adequacy and Statewide Effort. That same study gave New York a grade of F in the category titled, Funding Distribution. Spending large amounts of money while distributing funds through seriously flawed, and heavily politicized allocation formulas is inefficient, wasteful and contributes to wide disparities in the opportunities students are provided across the state.

Included for your review and use are two resolutions that address both the GEA and the calling for an independent commission to develop a state aid formula that is both adequate and equitable. In closing, we know that our most recent lobbying efforts of the past year were successful. However, a new year brings new challenges. This year is an election year that is critical to our students and legislators.

Thank you, in advance for your time and consideration. If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Dr. Robert R Dillon

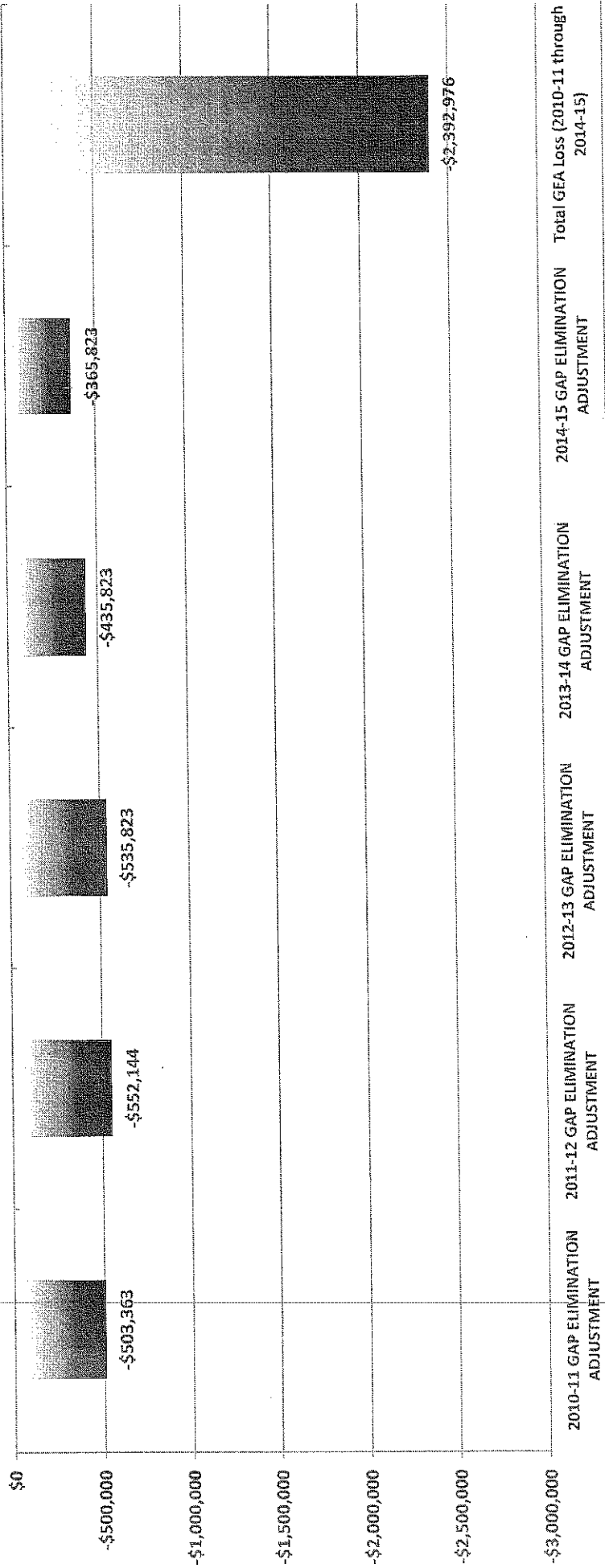
If You Need Help to find your district BEDS Code
 - Use next tab below

131801

POORER SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE BORNE THE BRUNT OF GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT REDUCTIONS TO STATE AID AND EXPERIENCED THE GREATEST IMPACT ON AND LEVIES (THUS DIMINISHMENTS TO STAFF, PROGRAMS AND FUND BALANCES)	
District Name	2010-11 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT (Includes the GEA withheld by NYS and not federal SFSF funds for that year as our mission is based on the GEA and the state's constitutional obligations)
RHINEBECK	-\$503,363
County	Your District's Average Per Student Loss (Based on Est 2013-14 Period 2010-11 through 2014-15)
Dutchess	-\$2,177
COMBINED WEALTH RATIO (CWR) FOR 14-15 AID	FREE & REDUCED PRICE LUNCH %, K-6, 3-YEAR AVG.
1.920	0.145
SOURCE: Compiled by the SSFC from NYSED School Aid data	
2011-12 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT (Includes the GEA withheld by NYS and not federal JOBS funds for that year as our mission is based on the GEA and the state's constitutional obligations)	2012-13 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT
-\$552,144	-\$535,823
STATE Average Per Student Loss (Based on Est 2013-14 Enrollment (SED)) for Period 2010-11 through 2014-15	Your District's GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT for 2014-15 Per Student
-\$3,546	-\$333
CWR Decile 1=Poorest 10=Wealthiest	FRPL Decile 1=Highest Poverty 10=Lowest Poverty
9	9
STATE TOTAL 2011-12 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT	STATE TOTAL 2012-13 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT
-\$2,553,877,142	-\$2,154,332,267
STATE TOTAL 2010-11 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT	STATE TOTAL 2013-14 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT
-\$2,136,173,643	-\$1,637,607,588
2014-15 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT	2013-14 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT
-\$365,823	-\$435,823
Your District's TAX EFFORT RATIO for 2014-15 AID	STATE AVERAGE GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT for 2014-15 Per Student
5.130	-\$386
Difference Between Your District's 2008-09 and 2014-15 State Aid w/o Building Aid	2014-15 GEA as % of 2013-14 Budget (If absorbed= Budget Decrease)
(\$297,511)	-1.2%
STATE TOTAL GEA Loss (2010-11 through 2013-14)	STATE TOTAL 2014-15 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT
-\$9,526,296,527	-\$1,036,669,680
TOTAL CUMULATIVE GEA LOSS (2010-11 through 2014-15)	Your District's TAX EFFORT RATIO for 2014-15 AID
-\$2,392,976	5.130
At 2014-15 Restoration Rate Years until GEA Ends	2014-15 GEA as % of 2013-14 Levy (If absorbed= Levy Increase)
6	1.4%

Press **Control P** to Print Your Document and Graph

The GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT 2010-11 TO 2014-15 CRUSHED SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF, PROGRAMS AND FUND BALANCES



2010-11 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT	2011-12 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT	2012-13 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT	2013-14 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT	2014-15 GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT	Total GEA Loss (2010-11 through 2014-15)
-\$503,363	-\$552,144	-\$535,823	-\$435,823	-\$365,823	-\$2,392,976

Rhinebeck Central School District
45 North Park Road
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

**Calling Upon the New York State Legislature to End Gap Elimination Adjustments
When Adopting New York State's 2015-16 Annual Budget.**

- Whereas:** The NY State Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) was implemented in 2010 as a one-time reduction in education aid to help NY State balance its budget and the GEA has continued in every budget since then:
- Whereas:** The GEA, since its inception in 2010-11 through 2014-15, has reduced state aid to the Rhinebeck Central School District by \$2,392,976 to date;
- Whereas:** The reduction in aid associated with the GEA has resulted in a cost shift to the local property tax payer in the Rhinebeck Central School District; and
- Whereas:** This cost shift has resulted in unsustainable measures being implemented to balance the Rhinebeck Central School District's budget, including the reduction and elimination of school programs, personnel, and services, and the reductions of school district reserve funds;
- Whereas:** Efforts by the Rhinebeck Central School District to sustain programs and services and contain budgets are simultaneously constrained by Property Tax Cap Legislation, unfunded and underfunded mandates, state mandated increases in pension costs, and mandated implementation of Common Core Learning Standards and teacher/principal performance reviews; and
- Whereas:** State Funding is constitutionally mandated and essential to meet all mandates and obligations to maintain the quality of education in the Rhinebeck Central School District; and
- Whereas:** New York State touts recent aid increases as generous support to schools, although overall, school districts are receiving very little additional aid when compared to 2008-09; and
- Whereas:** Some school districts have even experienced state aid decreases from 2008-09 to 2014-15;
- Resolved,** That the Rhinebeck Central School District Board of Education calls upon the New York State Legislature to end Gap Elimination Adjustments when they adopt New York State's 2015-16 Annual Budget.

Passed and adopted this ___th day of _____, 2014 during a Board of Education meeting by the following vote:

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Absent: _____

Attest: _____
District Clerk

President, Board of Education

Superintendent of Schools

CC: Governor Andrew Cuomo
Senate Coalition Leader Skelos
Senate Coalition Leader Klein
Senate Minority Leader Stewart-Cousins
Assembly Speaker Silver
Assembly Minority Leader Kolb
Senate Education Committee Chair Flanagan
Assembly Education Committee Chair Nolan
Senate Finance Committee Chair DeFrancisco
Assembly Ways and Means Chair Farrell
Senator Terry Gipson
Assemblyperson Kevin Cahill
Assemblyperson Didi Barrett
Local Media Outlets

Rhinebeck Central School District
45 North Park Road
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

**A Resolution In Support of a Berger Commission Approach to
Reforming Allocation of School Aid in New York State**

Whereas, all New York State public school students have a state constitutional right, upheld by the Court of Appeals in its 2006 ruling on the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) suit, to a “sound, basic education”, and

Whereas, the State of New York has “frozen” implementation of the Foundation Aid formula it agreed to execute to satisfy the Court of Appeals decision rendered in the CFE suit, and

Whereas, a comparative study of our nation’s fifty state school funding systems ranks New York State second nationally, with a letter grade of A for *Funding Adequacy*, but condemns our state’s flawed and inequitable approach to allocation of school aid with a letter grade of F, and a bottom-tier national ranking of 42nd in *Funding Distribution*, and

Whereas, the State of New York has shifted a significantly larger share of the costs of PK-12 education back onto local tax payers over the past decade, thus disproportionately hurting low property wealth school districts, and the students attending those districts, and

Whereas, New York State has enacted Local Property Tax Levy Cap legislation that virtually assures that existing per pupil funding disparities will widen each year, and

Whereas, the costs of resolving New York’s school funding equity problem are, based on past state legislative performance, highly likely to continue to increase in every year that school funding allocation decisions remain in the hands of the state legislature, and

Whereas, New York’s highly politicized system for allocating school funds places great pressure upon even the most conscientious state legislator to act in a selfish manner for the benefit of residents of their own legislative district even in violation of the state constitution’s guarantee, upheld by the Court of Appeals, that ALL children receive a “sound, basic education” with the consequence being that students of other legislative districts and regions have their educational opportunities curtailed,

Therefore, the School Board of the Rhinebeck Central School District, calls for the immediate establishment of a non-political *School Funding Equity Commission* that follows the model used by New York State when it established the Berger Commission to resolve the politically sensitive issue of hospital closure and repurposing,

Specifically, our Board of Education endorses the plan calling for the following actions to occur:

1. Education funding allocation decisions be de-coupled from the legislature by empowering a team of nationally recognized school finance experts to design a new school finance system that is research based and fair to all New York students and school districts,
2. That this team of nationally recognized school finance experts be charged to operate independently of political influence, and design a system for allocating school funds that is equitable, predictable, sufficient, transparent and readily comprehensible by New York residents,
3. That the recommendation of this *School Funding Equity Commission* become law at a date certain unless that recommendation were to be specifically turned down by a vote of both houses of the legislature,
4. That the *School Funding Equity Commission* be charged to develop a plan with a three year phase-in to cushion districts from any dislocation a new funding system might impose, and
5. That after six years (three year phase-in and three years operation) a similar *Commission* be charged to review the impact of the new funding approach and make recommendations for improvements.

Passed and adopted this ____th day of _____, 2014 during a Board of Education meeting by the following vote:

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Absent: _____

Attest: _____
 District Clerk

 President, Board of Education

 Superintendent of Schools

CC: Governor Andrew Cuomo
 Senate Coalition Leader Skelos
 Senate Coalition Leader Klein
 Senate Minority Leader Stewart-Cousins
 Assembly Speaker Silver
 Assembly Minority Leader Kolb
 Senate Education Committee Chair Flanagan
 Assembly Education Committee Chair Nolan
 Senate Finance Committee Chair DeFrancisco
 Assembly Ways and Means Chair Farrell
 Senator Terry Gipson
 Assemblyperson Kevin Cahill
 Assemblyperson Didi Barrett
 Local Media Outlets