

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Long Island Delegation to the New U go-8)-4(N)5(e) 2.m6D ethD t e

Executive Budget Analysis February 2013

- The Executive Budget proposes that Long Island school aid be increased by \$67.9 million (2.8%). However, even with this increase, our schools will receive over \$137 million less state aid in 2013-14 than was received in 2008-09 (\$2.48 billion vs. \$2.62 billion).
- Forty-five (45) school districts will lose aid while another twenty-one (21) will receive less than a 2% increase. Seven (7) low-wealth (CWR <1.0) school districts enrolling approximately 50,000 students are in this group.
- Long Island schools have lost over \$1 billion between 2011-12 and 2013-14 as a result of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA).
 - This represents a 17% loss of aid during that period.
 - Over one-half (\$539 million) of the loss was incurred by the 28 low-wealth school districts (CWR<1.0) on Long Island.
- The GEA and its partial restoration have a disproportionately severe impact on Long Island schools.
 - The GEA reduces aid to Long Island schools at a **higher** rate than schools across the rest of the state (11.8% vs. 9.4%).
 - The GEA Restoration restores aid to Long Island schools at a **lower** rate than the rest of the state (9.2% vs. 15.9%).
 - **If Long Island lost aid and had aid restored at the same rate as the rest of the state, our schools would receive \$78.2 million more than projected.**
- Nearly 75% of the statewide reduction in High Tax Aid is absorbed by Long Island schools (\$37M of \$50M).
 - Over one-half (65 of 124) of Long Island school districts experienced a 70% cut in High Tax Aid

- Foundation Aid remains frozen in the Executive Budget. This aid comprises nearly 75% of all Formula Aid. **The Foundation Formula must be overhauled.** Projected 2013-14 Foundation Aid per pupil on Long Island is \$3,436, which is 31% less than the per pupil allocation for the rest