

State Aid and New York State Public Schools

What does the future hold?

FORESTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MARCH, 2014

Contributing Factors of Local School District's Distress

- In 2008-2009, state aid comprised approximately **40%** of total school district revenue.
- By 2012-2013, that portion has fallen to **34%**.
- During this same time frame, the state has enacted a property tax cap which restricts a district's ability to raise revenues locally.

Contributing Factors of Local School District's Distress

- In 2009-2010, Foundation Aid was frozen. This equated to a \$1.4 billion cut to state aid.
- In 2010-2011, the GEA was created to reduce state aid to schools by \$2.1 billion.
- In 2012-2013, Federal ARRA funds were no longer available to help soften the blow to local districts

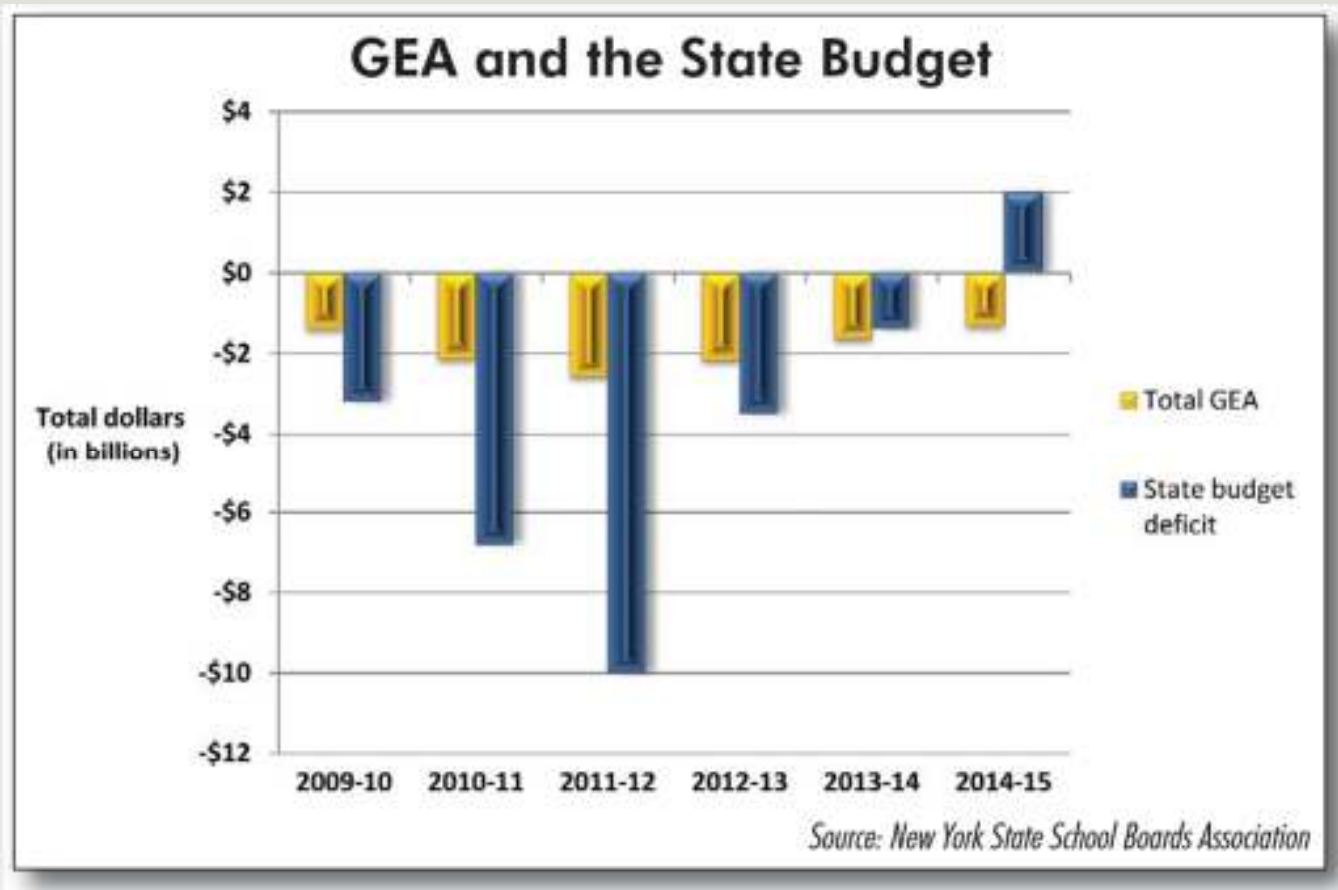
Facts and Figures

- After the 2013-2014 school year, the cumulative GEA totals \$8 billion.
- Foundation Aid through the 2013-2014 school year is also \$5 billion behind court-ordered levels.
- Gov. Cuomo has proposed a \$1.3 billion GEA cut and another Foundation Aid freeze.

The Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA)

- The GAP Elimination Adjustment, or GEA was created as an “adjustment” to state aid for schools in order to “eliminate” the state’s budget gap.
- Every district in the State was asked “to do their part” in bringing the budget back into balance.

GEA and the State Budget



Eliminate the GEA Now

- The state is now projecting a combined \$4 billion surplus over the next three years.
- New York State must eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment and restore state aid to levels that allow our students the same opportunities as others

Effects of Budget Crisis in Forestville (Out in front)

- Depletion of reserve funds from the district
- Elimination or reduction to programming (extra curricular and core classes)
- Reducing or eliminating non-mandated curricula
- Staff reductions through lay-off and/or attrition- teachers, custodians, admin. assistants, etc.
- Foregoing repairs and capital improvements (i.e., heaters, boilers, paving, safety repairs, etc.)

Effects of Budget Crisis in Forestville (The hidden truth)

- Continued state aid loss due to GEA reductions will continue to erode the quality of education school districts can provide
- The state cannot continue to pass along its revenue short-falls to local school districts
- The effects of reduced aid to local districts is disproportionate across the state
- Our students and children are important too important to let this continue
- Our students are competing with others across the state, nation and globe- for colleges, universities, careers. If they continue to receive less opportunities than others, they are already at a disadvantage

Why Should YOU Advocate?

- Because your schools...
 - Educate your children and grandchildren
 - Employ your neighbors
 - Are funded by your tax dollars
 - Influence your property values

What Can I Do About It?

- Contact your elected representatives by letter, phone, email or request personal meetings
- Organize a letter-writing campaign to elected representatives and newspapers
- Use social media to spread the word: Update your Facebook or Twitter status with a key point; share news articles and connect with legislatures online
- Share your advocacy with us and follow our progress on Twitter!

#NYSchoolsInPeril