

Schedule for Legislative Visits, etc.

Schedule	School District(s)	School Personnel	Board Members	<u>Parents</u>	<u>Stakeholders</u>	Other
Friday, February 05, 2016						
Friday, February 12, 2016						
Friday, February 19, 2016						
Friday, February 26, 2016						
Friday, March 04, 2016						
Friday, March 11, 2016						
Friday, March 18, 2016						
Other Legislative Events:						
Local School Boards Association	Community Forum	School Budget Workshops	Faculty Meeting	School Group Meeting	School Related Meeting	Media Contacts
Press Conference	Union Meeting	Municipal Meeting	Economic Entity Meeting	Service Group Meeting	Senior Citizens Meeting	Other

The Ask –Governor and Legislators

- **The GEA must go (-\$434 million total):**
 - It accounts for some large sums of cash for your districts
 - If GEA remains any positive change to Foundation aid is simply minimized by a GEA cut.
- **There need to be changes to the Foundation Aid formula:**
 - Update the costs to educate students in poverty, English Language Learners
 - Add further considerations for community fiscal capacity with regard to Income and Property Wealth
 - Fund an Improved Foundation Aid formula that is More Equitable and Adequate
 - Minimum Increase must be at about \$900 million
- **General considerations:**
 - It's not just the total amount of money granted in aid in the aggregate but the equity and adequacy reflected in the distributed disaggregated amounts; thus need should trump region.
 - Avoid the creation of more categorical aid categories-if it is something everyone should behave it should be added and institutionalized into the Foundation Aid formula with funding based on equitable measures of need and adequacy.
 - Avoid falling for a two year plan as one legislative session is often willing but always capable of changing the previous promise.
 - Avoid the use of pet projects be considered state aid... if it was really state aid it would be for all districts.

What are your next steps?

1. This will be a difficult year
2. The “fix” is complicated
3. The “fix” is political
4. Need all the oars in the water
5. Communication far & wide is essential to success
6. There is an election year coming- expectations are high and “spin” will rule the day
7. **DO NOT** lose FOCUS; FOCUS on MONEY ISSUES

Set High Expectations and Demand Results from Your State Government

Performance Standards- Institute an APPR for state government representatives

The Annual Professional Performance Review for State Elected Officials

Provide them with constructive feed back:

Regularly in person, in the media and with personal communications

- You've got until **March 1** to influence Legislation for the Enacted Budget
- You've got until about **April 1** to influence Your School District Budget
- You've got until **May 17, 2016** to influence Your School District Residents

What's your plan? What are you waiting for?

GET ORGANIZED!

TELEPHONE TREE

It's a measure of **Commitment-**
Everyone has a role to play... ..
Everyone must carry the water....
Many hands make light work...

MEETINGS, MEETINGS!
START EMAIL BLASTS

TWITTER TWEETS

FACEBOOK



Advocating for What You Believe In
Is Crucial —

If You Don't Ask for It...
People Usually Assume You Don't
Need It



“Silence is golden...only when you can't think of a good answer”

Muhammed Ali

So We've Provided Some Tools to Help You be an Effective Advocate



ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

*Advocates
give a voice to
the issues, people
and principles
they care about.*

*Your voice
can make a
difference!*

School districts across New York have made devastating cuts to educational programs as they adjust to rising costs that are outpacing revenue.

For some districts, that has meant lost jobs and reductions in the number of class sections, sports, extracurricular offerings, after-school clubs and bus runs, enrichment opportunities, early learning programs, advanced courses, student support services, and more. In fact, many schools now face the very real threat of educational insolvency, when they will no longer be able to provide the minimum requirements for students under New York State Education Department guidelines.

Continued reductions are not a viable long-term solution to fiscal challenges when today's students and teachers must meet higher performance standards than those for any previous generation. **This trend of reductions cannot continue without threatening the quality—and equality—of the education available to all students.**

Community advocates must speak up *now*, on behalf of their students and their schools, or risk losing the high level of local public education that they've come to expect. **Thank you for being an advocate who stands up for our schools.**



What's in the Advocacy Tool Kit Booklet:

- Examples of Effective Advocacy Activities You Can Do
- Tips on How to Prepare & Then Carry Out These Activities
- Grid That Identifies Legislators that Represent Your School District
- Contact Information:
 - Your Legislators & Key Legislative Leaders and Committee Chairs
 - Albany & District Office Addresses, Telephone, Email & Social Media
 - Governor, Your Regent



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2016-17 CNYSBA NYS Budget Agenda: Helpful Information and the Two Key Issues Albany MUST Address

Overview of Key 2016-17 NYS Budget Concerns

- **Every statewide education organization, and the Board of Regents,** made rational cases to add over \$2 billion of new state education aid in this year's budget to maintain critical programs and services. The Governor's budget proposal adds only \$863 million to the state aid amounts targeted for all school districts in 2016-17.
- **Gap Elimination Adjustment:** With a state budget surplus, the Governor should have abolished the GEA once and for all, rather than devote only \$189 million of the remaining \$434 million in GEA in his budget proposal. Without a complete end to GEA this year many of our districts will not obtain the badly needed funds they are entitled to receive.
- **Foundation Aid:** The Executive Budget only calls for a meager 1.7 percent increase in Foundation Aid (\$266 million). When Foundation Aid was created it was purposefully designed to begin and sustain a more equitable and adequate revenue stream to all school districts to meet the state's constitutional obligations. This obligation remains incomplete. Adequate and equitable Foundation Aid is especially vital to our least wealthy districts that are dependent on it to make ends meet.
- **Property Tax Levy Cap:** NYS Comptroller DiNapoli estimated that schools will have \$308 million less available with this year's lower cap. Now wealthy districts will join less wealthy and poor communities in competition for funds to make up local revenue. All efforts at an equitable and adequate distribution of state aid based on need must be preserved.

CNYSBA State Budget "Asks" of State Legislators, Governor & Board of Regents

1. **Get Rid of the ENTIRE GEA in THIS YEAR'S State BUDGET — PERIOD!**
 - Almost \$10 billion in entitled education aid has been deducted over the past six years. NYS continues to have a sizable budget surplus so there is no legitimate reason for this absurd fiscal gimmick to continue.
2. **Provide at Least \$880 Million in Improved Foundation Aid and Distribute it Equitably**
 - Foundation Aid is important to all schools, but especially to our least wealthy districts. Foundation aid components — especially those that factor in a community's income and property wealth — need further improvement and then should be used to create a more equitable distribution of basic state aid in amounts that will maintain programs, staff and the fiscal health of school districts.



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Governor's 2016-17 State Budget Proposal:
How Your District Would Make Out in GEA Restoration and New Foundation Aid

 <small>SEARCH FOR YOUR DISTRICT</small> Data source: EXECUTIVE BUDGET 2016-17 (DABT files)	COUNTY	2016-17 GEA RESTORATION EXECUTIVE BUDGET PLAN	REMAINING GEA 2016-17 PER EXECUTIVE BUDGET PLAN	% GEA RESTORATION PER EXECUTIVE BUDGET PLAN	DIFFERENCE 2015-16 FOUNDATION AID & 2016-17 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PLAN	TOTAL FOUNDATION AID & GEA RESTORATION AID CHANGE EXECUTIVE BUDGET PLAN	COMBINED WEALTH RATIO Decile 1=Poorest 10=Wealthiest (INCOME & PROPERTY WEALTH)	FREE & REDUCED PRICE LUNCH Decile 1=Poorest 10=Wealthiest (A MEASURE OF POVERTY)
AUBURN	Cayuga	\$244,677	-\$49,353	83%	\$286,032	\$530,709	4	4
CANDOR	Tioga	\$64,175	\$0	100%	\$103,672	\$167,847	2	4
CATO MERIDIAN	Cayuga	\$141,004	-\$147,929	49%	\$114,530	\$255,534	2	6
DRYDEN	Tompkins	\$242,968	-\$340,878	42%	\$97,930	\$340,898	4	4
GROTON	Tompkins	\$114,087	-\$139,580	45%	\$92,598	\$206,685	3	4
ITHACA	Tompkins	\$589,816	-\$1,144,908	34%	\$0	\$589,816	8	7
JORDAN ELBRIDG	Onondaga	\$177,955	-\$290,956	38%	\$105,713	\$283,668	3	7
LANSING	Tompkins	\$167,634	-\$330,464	34%	\$301	\$167,935	8	8
MORAVIA	Cayuga	\$165,447	-\$209,988	44%	\$77,014	\$242,461	4	4
NEWFIELD	Tompkins	\$9,842	\$0	100%	\$87,777	\$97,619	3	2
PORT BYRON	Cayuga	\$147,673	-\$161,748	48%	\$122,592	\$270,265	2	5
SKANEATELES	Onondaga	\$155,186	-\$343,397	31%	\$0	\$155,186	9	10
SOUTH SENECA	Seneca	\$59,759	-\$16,866	78%	\$45,081	\$104,840	6	3
SOUTHERN CAYUG	Cayuga	\$193,162	-\$371,247	34%	\$0	\$193,162	8	5
TRUMANSBURG	Tompkins	\$161,134	-\$251,380	39%	\$50,672	\$211,806	5	6
UNION SPRINGS	Cayuga	\$132,967	-\$217,397	38%	\$21,670	\$154,637	6	7
WEEDSPORT	Cayuga	\$102,501	-\$167,868	38%	\$58,248	\$160,749	4	8



DON'T Forget That...

**Regardless of What the Governor Has Proposed Or Said
The State Budget **Cannot Become Law** Without the Legislature**

So PERSONAL CONTACT with Your Legislators is VITAL!

**You Need to be Resources for Your Legislators – They Need to
Know What's SPECIFICALLY Going on in YOUR DISTRICT with
YOUR CHILDREN & YOUR COMMUNITY...So That They Can Take
Your Concerns to Albany**

**We Only Have 4-5 Weeks to Get This Job Done...
LET'S GET TO WORK NOW!**