

COVER LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parents,

State funding to our schools has been severely shortchanged for 5 years now. Districts, even small ones, are owed millions by the state. The reason for the shortchange is the state's use of an accounting maneuver called the Gap Elimination Allowance ("GEA"). Back in the recession of 2009, the state had trouble balancing its budget, and decided to take money from what was legally due to public school districts. (The state "eliminated" its "gap" in this way.) For unknown reasons, the state has continued this practice of underfunding schools every year since -- even as the state promotes that it has a budget surplus. But that practice must end now.

Our schools are at a financial breaking point. Class sizes are growing as teachers are laid off; academic, extracurricular and sports programs are at risk; and rainy-day reserve funds are being exhausted. We desperately need these funds that are rightfully ours.

The NY Suburban Consortium for Public Education, an advocacy group of concerned parents and educators in our region, has put together a letter that asks our legislators to ***Eliminate the GEA and Restore Our School Aid.***

Please click on the following link to electronically send a letter to Governor Cuomo and our state legislators: [Eliminate the GEA.](#)  
The funding and integrity of our children's public education is at stake!