

News Release

Dobbs Ferry School District Joins With The Westchester Putnam School Boards Association To End The GEA and Restore State Aid

Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. February 13, 2014— The Dobbs Ferry School District has joined a campaign spearheaded by the Westchester Putnam School Boards Association (WPSBA) to restore a loss of more than half a billion dollars in state aid to school districts in the region due to the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA).

"The Dobbs Ferry Board of Education passed a resolution last week seeking an end to the GEA, and it is our hope that the residents of Dobbs Ferry will reach out to their elected representatives and join us in this effort," said Dobbs Ferry Board of Education President Tracy Baron.

The GEA is a formula in the state budget that reduces the amount of state aid each school district is entitled to receive. It was introduced in the 2009-10 school year to partially offset the state's own \$10 billion budget deficit. Over the past four years, the GEA, formerly called the Deficit Reduction Assessment, has negatively impacted public school districts statewide, reducing state aid by approximately \$8.9 billion.

WPSBA has made the elimination of the GEA one of its highest priorities for the 2013-2014 school year. It is working to convince legislators that the GEA should be eliminated, thereby helping school districts in a time of great financial constriction and ever-increasing mandated services. According to the WPSBA, the GEA has reduced state aid to school districts in Westchester and Putnam Counties by 16% on average. At the same time, mandated expenditures that school districts have no control over, such as pension costs, health insurance and other benefits- continue to escalate.

The WPSBA is encouraging residents to join its campaign to eliminate the GEA by participating in a letter writing initiative to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and local legislative representatives in Albany. Community members can visit the WPSBA website at www.wpsba.org to learn more about the significant financial impact of the GEA on area schools and to [send an electronic letter to state legislators](#). You can also link to this page from the Dobbs Ferry School District website at www.dfdsd.org.

"The Dobbs Ferry Board of Education encourages everyone to use the electronic advocacy system on the WPSBA website to send the sample letter asking Governor Cuomo and our legislators for their support to eliminate the GEA beginning in the 2014-2015 school year," said Mrs. Baron. "Your participation is critical to our efforts to eliminate the GEA and restore state aid to our schools."

For more information, please contact:

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