



**LONG ISLAND EDUCATION:**

**Facts on Costs and Outcomes  
and  
Regional Priorities for State Aid Reform**

February 2005

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## **INTRODUCTION/ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In 1996, the Long Island Education Coalition (LIEC) and the Long Island Association (LIA) prepared the first report on the costs and outcomes of education on Long Island. The report provided a basis for the informed discussion of educational issues within the region. As a result of this effort the relationship between the educational and business communities has blossomed into a mutually supportive partnership.

The collaboration set the stage for the establishment of Long Island Works, a regional school business partnership, and the Long Island School Superintendents – College Presidents Partnership. Long Island now leads the state in these types of collaborative efforts.

The LIEC and the LIA have advocated for the reform of educational funding formulas for several years. We believe that all New York State children are entitled to a sound, basic education and that an effective system of funding such an education must be established.

This need to reform the current system of allocating adequate state aid to New York State school districts has also been acknowledged by all parties involved in the process. Now the courts have joined the chorus of voices calling for reform as a result of the decision in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) lawsuit. The court has said that children being educated in New York City are entitled to the same sound, basic education that other children in the state are receiving. A high school education that enables every child to meet the requirements of the state has become the standard.

As part of statewide reform, the needs of all regions must be considered. In order to facilitate this effort, the member organizations of the LIEC (see Appendix B) have come together to identify regional priorities for state aid reform. Our priorities are based upon an assessment of the collective performance of our school districts and our knowledge of the state budget process.

We believe that the priorities we have identified, if utilized as a basis for reform, will benefit all New York State students and meet the requirements of the court pursuant to the CFE decision.

The LIEC and the LIA drew on many resources to develop this report. The report is built on a foundation established by the legislative committees of the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association and the Nassau County Council of School Superintendents with the release of their January 2004 paper entitled “*The Funding of Education in New York State: Addressing the Needs of All Children*”.

Tables 1-13, which are modified versions of tables originally prepared by the Long Island Education Coalition, were updated by Ms. Andrea Grooms of the Research and Planning Office of Eastern Suffolk BOCES. Mr. Gary Bixhorn, Dr. Candace White-Ciraco and Mr. Shane Higuera, also of Eastern Suffolk BOCES, provided support to Ms. Grooms in this effort.

This report could not have been developed without the support and assistance of the organizations and individuals named above.

## **LONG ISLAND EDUCATION FACTS ON COSTS AND OUTCOMES**

The facts about the costs and outcomes of Long Island education have been the subject of ongoing review by the Long Island Education Coalition (LIEC) and the Long Island Association (LIA) since 1996. Basically, the research found, and continues to substantiate the following, with regard to costs, effort, and outcomes:

### Costs

1. The cost of goods and services on Long Island is approximately 24.7% greater than in the region at the median (Central New York), and 49.5% greater than the lowest cost region (North Country). A state aid dollar buys far more in other regions of the state than on Long Island (2003 data).
2. When adjusted by the regional cost of living index, Long Island's Per Pupil Cost (\$9,579) is 50.6% less than the regionally adjusted Per Pupil Cost of the highest ranked county (\$19,394) and 8.1% less than the median county, \$10,422 (2003 data).
3. Over the past ten years (from 1993-94 to 2002-03), Per Pupil Costs on Long Island have increased approximately 1.9% annually compared to an annual percentage increase of 3.2% for counties at the median, and an average annual increase of approximately 13.5% for the county with the highest percentage increase in per pupil spending over this time period.

### Local Effort/ State Share

1. Long Island educates 26% of all public school students in the state (excluding New York City boroughs) but receives only 19.6% of the state aid to schools, again excluding aid to New York City (2003 enrollment and 2002 state aid data).
2. On Long Island, only 25.5% of school district revenues come from state aid (2002 data).
3. Long Island accounts for 29% of the state sales tax revenues and approximately 36% of state income tax revenues collected from all counties statewide (excluding New York City), but receives only 19.6% of state aid to schools, again excluding New York City (2001 Taxation and Finance, and 2002 state aid data).

### Outcomes/Enrollment

1. Long Island's elementary, intermediate and secondary students consistently outperform students statewide on the ELA, Science, Math and Social Studies Assessments, and the Regents exams (2003 data).
2. Along with dramatic increases in student enrollment (19.1% from 1993-94 to 2002-03), Long Island has also experienced increases in the percentage of students requiring additional educational support arising from Limited English Proficiency.
3. Long Island (2003 data) ranks above the statewide median (63%) in the percentage of students graduating with a Regents diploma (68.8%).
4. Long Island (2003 data) reports high percentages of high school graduates continuing their education at post-secondary institutions (90% compared to the state median, 81.8%).
5. Long Island (2003 data) schools report relatively low percentages of dropouts. For the past five years, the dropout rate on Long Island has remained at or below 2%. The median dropout rate in counties around the state is 2.6%.

Long Islanders are proud of their schools for good reason. Our schools provide outstanding services at cost levels that are "in-line" with other regions of the state. Long Island schools need adequate levels of financial support from the state to maintain these results.

**Note: Tables 1 - 13 provide the source data for the above highlights.**

## REGIONAL PRIORITIES

In 2004, the Long Island Education Coalition established “regional priorities” for state aid reform. The priorities served as the basis for LIEC legislative advocacy efforts in relation to the CFE decision. The LIEC continues to believe that these priorities reflect the concerns of Long Islanders. They must be considered as part of any statewide plan to address the CFE decision. We also believe that the state must support Long Island school districts’ continuing efforts to maintain the performance of our students who are, by every measure, leading the state in meeting or exceeding state standards.

The state can do this through the establishment of an operating aid formula that:

1. Recognizes regional cost differences within the state to assure that dollars allocated to Long Island schools have the same “buying power” as dollars allocated to schools in other regions of the state;
2. Recognizes the level of local effort of Long Island taxpayers and assures that all communities receive an appropriate state share, and guarantees a minimum state share;
3. Recognizes the diversity of Long Island districts in terms of needs and resources, and allocates funds utilizing accurate and meaningful wealth, effort and need measures; and
4. Recognizes that costs escalate over time and that state support of these costs must keep pace.

We envision a formula for the distribution of aid that is sensitive to these priorities would feature the following:

- a. A factor that would equalize the value of a dollar within the state. Research by the State Education Department has resulted in the establishment of the following index:

<b>REGIONAL COST DIFFERENCES – How much will \$1,000 buy?</b>		
<b>Professional Cost Index for New York State by Labor Force Region</b>		
<b>Labor Force Region</b>	<b>Index Value</b>	<b>Purchasing Power of \$1,000 by Region (2003)</b>
North Country	1.000	\$1,000
Mohawk Valley	1.016	\$984
Southern Tier	1.061	\$942
Western New York	1.080	\$925
Central New York	1.132	\$883
Finger Lakes	1.181	\$847
Capital District	1.168	\$856
Hudson Valley	1.359	\$735
Long Island/New York City	1.496	\$668
<b>Source:</b> NYSED (2004) Regents State Aid Proposal, 2004-05		

- b. A factor, or set of factors, that would assure that communities share equitably in the cost of education and that every community is at least entitled to an adequate minimum level of state aid.
- c. A set of factors that accurately reflects the needs of communities based upon wealth and demographic characteristics.
- d. A factor, or set of factors, that would assure the aid due to districts keeps pace with increasing costs over time.

The establishment of a formula that recognizes these priorities will result in a more equitable distribution pattern for state aid to schools.

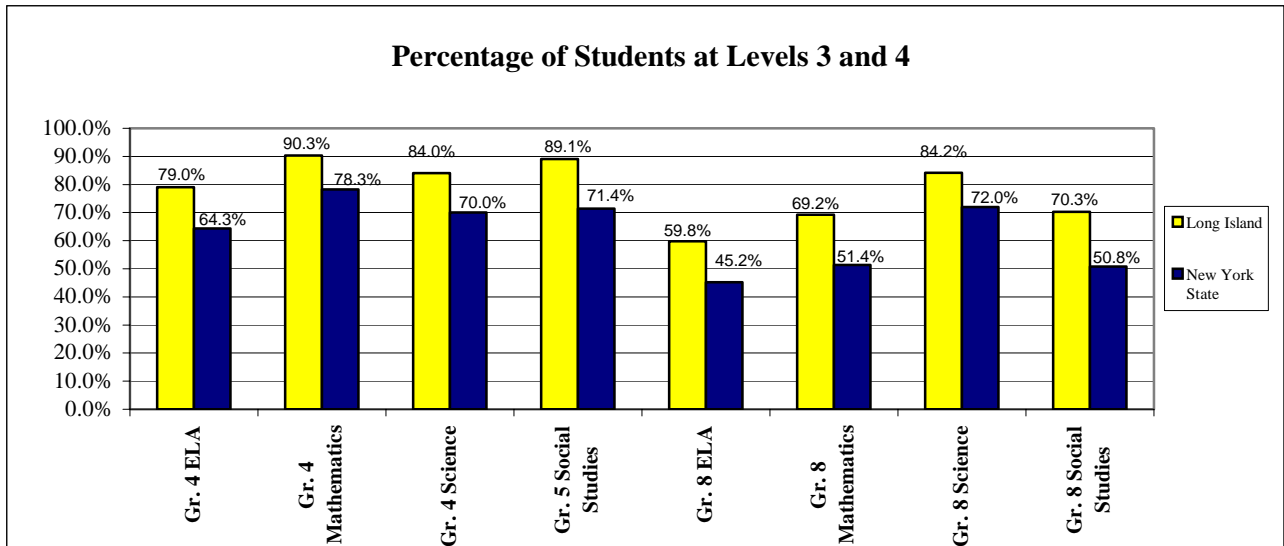
**Table 1**

**LONG ISLAND ELEMENTARY AND INTERMEDIATE ASSESSMENTS  
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS AT LEVELS 3 AND 4**

ASSESSMENTS	% OF ALL STUDENTS TESTED	
	LONG ISLAND	NEW YORK STATE*
Grade 4 ELA	79.0	64.3
Grade 4 Mathematics	90.3	78.3
Grade 4 Science	84.0 (above State Designated Level)	70.0 (above State Designated Level)
Grade 5 Social Studies	89.1	71.4
Grade 8 ELA	59.8	45.2
Grade 8 Mathematics	69.2	51.4
Grade 8 Science	84.2	72.0
Grade 8 Social Studies	70.3	50.8

**Description:** The percentage of all 4th, 5th and 8th grade students who scored at levels 3 and 4 on the New York State Assessments, 2002-2003. \*Includes Long Island and New York City.

**Source:** Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts, Chapter 655 Report, New York State Education Department, July 2004.



**Key Fact:**

1. Long Island's 4th, 5th and 8th grade students exceeded statewide levels of performance on all assessments administered during the 2002-2003 academic year.

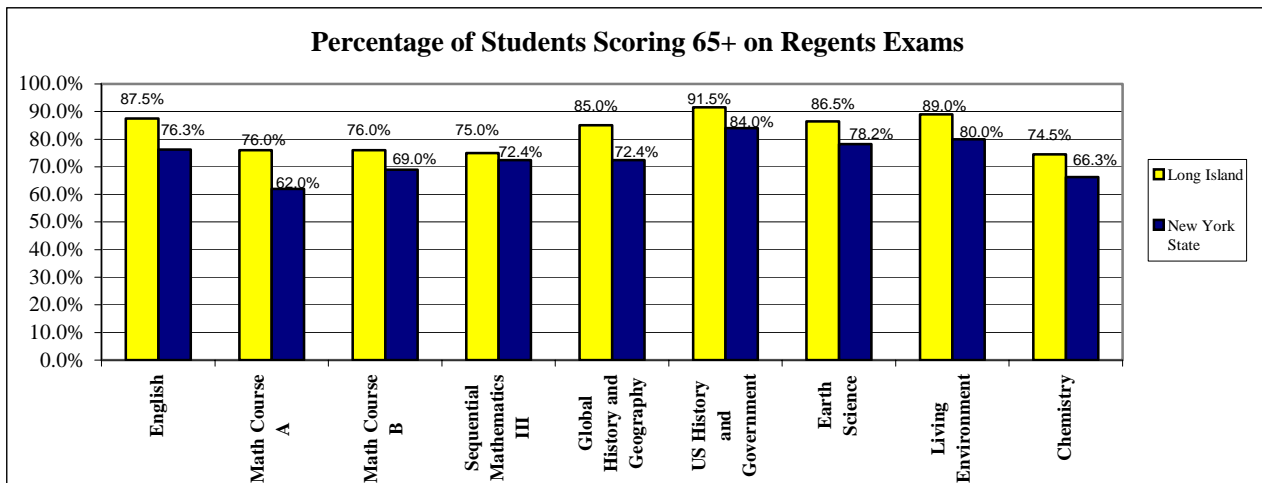
**Table 2**

**PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS SCORING 65+ ON REGENTS EXAMS**

ASSESSMENTS	% OF ALL STUDENTS TESTED	
	LONG ISLAND	NEW YORK STATE
English	87.5	76.3
Mathematics Course A Mathematics Course B Sequential Mathematics III	76.0 76.5 75.0	62.0 69.0 72.4
Global History and Geography US History and Government	85.0 91.5	72.4 84.0
Earth Science Living Environment Chemistry	86.5 89.0 74.5	78.2 80.0 66.3

**Description:** The percentage of all secondary students who scored 65+ on the New York State Regents, 2002-2003.

**Source:** Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts, Chapter 655 Report, New York State Education Department, July 2004.



**Key Fact:**

1. Long Island's percentage of students scoring 65+ on Regents exams exceeded the percentage for the state as a whole on the 2002-2003 Regents administration.

**Table 3**  
**COST OF LIVING**

LABOR FORCE REGION	RANK	COST OF GOODS & SERVICES
<b>Range</b>		
<b>North Country</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Long Island</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$1.50</b>
<b>Median</b>		
<b>Central New York</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$1.13</b>
<b>Long Island</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$1.50</b>

**Description:** This table presents the relative cost of living in Labor Force Regions statewide.  
**Source:** Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts, Chapter 655 Report, New York State Education Department, July 2004.  
 Regents Proposal on State Aid to School Districts for School Year-05: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/stateaidworkgroup/2004-05%20RSAP/RSAP0405.doc>.

**Method of Ranking:** The nine Labor Force Regions (excluding New York City boroughs) were ranked on the cost of goods and services using a cost of living index derived from the New York State Education Department (2004) Regents State Aid Proposal, 2004-05. Those Labor Force Regions with the lowest cost of living are ranked closest to 1.

**Key Facts:**

1. Long Island has the highest statewide cost of living as determined in the regional cost index.
2. Each dollar's worth of goods and services purchased in the North Country Labor Region, the region with the lowest cost of living, can be purchased for approximately \$1.50 on Long Island, which has the highest cost of living.
3. Goods and services on Long Island cost at least 24.7% more than counties at the median.

**Table 4**

**ADJUSTED TOTAL PER PUPIL EXPENDITURES**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>RANK: UNADJUSTED</b>	<b>ADJUSTED</b>	<b>RANK: ADJUSTED</b>
<b>Range</b>			
<b>Dutchess</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$8,159</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>\$19,394</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Median</b>			
<b>Rensselaer</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>\$10,422</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Long Island</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>\$9,579</b>	<b>14</b>

**Description:** This table reports the adjusted per pupil expenditures for Long Island compared to the other 55 counties (excluding New York City boroughs) with the lowest, highest, and median adjusted per pupil expenditures in the state.

**Source:** Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts, Chapter 655 Report, New York State Education Department, July 2004. Regents Proposal on State Aid to School Districts for School Year-05: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/stateaidworkgroup/2004-05%20RSAP/RSAP0405.doc>.

**Method of Ranking:** Counties were ranked from lowest (1) to highest (56) on total per pupil expenditures regionally adjusted by a cost of living index derived from The Regents Proposal on State Aid to School Districts for School Year-05.

**Key Facts:**

1. Regionally adjusted per pupil expense by county in New York State ranges from a low of \$8,159 in Dutchess to a high of \$19,394 in Hamilton.
2. Long Island ranks 14<sup>th</sup> (adj. exp. \$9,579) in regionally adjusted per pupil expenditure.
3. Long Island's regionally adjusted per pupil expense is approximately 8.1% below the regionally adjusted pupil expenditure of the median county.

**Table 5**

**PERCENT CHANGE IN PER PUPIL EXPENDITURES (1993-94 TO 2002-03)**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>RANK</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
<b>Range</b>		
<b>Schoharie</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>+134.8</b>
<b>Yates</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>-2.5</b>
<b>Median</b>		
<b>Broome</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>+32.4</b>
<b>Long Island</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>+19.0</b>

**Description:** The percent change in per pupil expenditures on Long Island and the other 55 counties of New York State over the ten-year period from 1993-1994 to 2002-2003 is reported in this table.

**Source:** Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts, Chapter 655 Report, New York State Education Department, July 2004 (for 2000-01 per pupil expenditures) and Financial Data for School Districts for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1994 (for 1993-94 per pupil expenditure).

**Method of Ranking:** Long Island and the other 55 counties of New York State (excluding New York City boroughs) were ranked from those with the highest ten-year percentage increase in per pupil expenditures (1) to those with the lowest ten-year percentage increase (56).

**Key Facts:**

1. Long Island was among the five counties showing the lowest overall percentage increase in this ten-year period.
2. Long Island averaged a 1.9% increase per year in per pupil expenditures. The annual percentage increase for counties at the median was approximately 3.2%.
3. The county showing the highest percentage increase in per pupil expenditures during this ten-year period averaged an increase of approximately 13.5% annually.

**Table 6**

**PERCENT CHANGE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT (1993-94 to 2002-03)**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>RANK</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
<b>Range</b>		
<b>Westchester</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>+26.9</b>
<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>-14.6</b>
<b>Median</b>		
<b>Oswego</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-3.7</b>
<b>Long Island</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>+19.1</b>

**Description:** This table reports the percent increase (or decrease) in student enrollment for the years between 1993-94 and 2002-03.

**Source:** Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts, Chapter 655 Report, New York State Education Department, July 2004 (for 2002-03 enrollment) and Financial Data for School Districts for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1993, NYS Office of the State Comptroller, July 1994 (for 1993-94 enrollment).

**Method of Ranking:** Long Island and the other 55 counties of New York State (excluding New York City boroughs) were ranked from those with the highest enrollment increases over the decade (1) to those with the lowest enrollment increases (56).

**Key Facts:**

1. Long Island experienced some of the highest enrollment growth rates of any county in the state over the last decade. Long Island is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in percent enrollment increase.
2. While Long Island was experiencing double-digit percentage increases in student enrollment over the last decade, 66.1% of the other counties (37 counties) experienced no growth or decline in student enrollment.
3. With a student enrollment of 471,086, Long Island educated 26% of the state's total 2002-03 student population (excluding New York City enrollments).

**Table 7**

**STATE AID AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL SCHOOL DISTRICT REVENUES**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>RANK</b>	<b>% OF STATE SHARE</b>
<b>Range</b>		
<b>Allegany</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>67.0</b>
<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>11.4</b>
<b>Median</b>		
<b>Clinton</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>55.2</b>
<b>Long Island</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>25.5</b>

**Description:** This table contrasts the percentage of school district revenues coming from State aid in various counties and Long Island.

**Source:** Comptrollers Special Report on Municipal Affairs School District Finances (2002).

**Method of Ranking:** Long Island and the other 55 counties of New York State (excluding New York City boroughs) were ranked from those whose school districts receive the greatest percentage of State aid revenue (1) to those receiving the smallest percentage of State aid revenues (56).

**Key Facts:**

1. The State share of school district revenues in Long Island is among the five smallest in the State.
2. State aid accounts for 25.5% of all school district revenues on Long Island. This State aid to Long Island school districts represents 19.6% of all State aid to New York State public school districts (excluding aid to New York City).
3. While receiving only 19.6% of State aid to public school districts (excluding New York City boroughs), Long Island educates 26% of the State's public school students (again excluding New York City revenues).

**Table 8**

**ANNUAL TAXABLE SALES AND PURCHASES**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>RANK</b>	<b>ANNUAL TAXABLE SALES</b> (reported in thousands)
<b>Range</b>		
<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$68,939</b>
<b>Long Island</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>\$38,371,089</b>
<b>Median</b>		
<b>Wayne</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>\$749,601</b>
<b>Long Island</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>\$38,371,089</b>
<b>Nassau</b>		<b>\$19,089,737</b>
<b>Suffolk</b>		<b>\$19,281,352</b>

**Description:** The total annual sales and purchase statistics for the year between March 2000 and February 2001 on Long Island and the other New York State counties (excluding the five New York City boroughs) are summarized in this table. New York State imposes a 4% sales and compensating use tax (state sales tax).

**Source:** Taxable Sales and Purchases, County and Industry Data, 3/2000-2/2001. New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

**Method of Ranking:** Long Island and the other 55 counties of New York State (excluding New York City boroughs) were ranked from those with the lowest annual taxable sales and purchases (1) to those with the highest (56).

**Key Facts:**

1. Long Island ranks the highest in the state in annual taxable sales and purchases.
2. Long Island generates 51 times the annual taxable sales and purchases as the median county in the state.
3. Long Island accounts for 29% of the annual state sales tax revenues for all counties in the state (excluding New York City boroughs).
4. Given the 4% state sales tax rate, Long Island's annual sales and purchases generate approximately \$1.53 billion in state revenues.

**Table 9****TOTAL STATE INCOME TAX LIABILITY OF FULL YEAR RESIDENTS**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>RANK</b>	<b>TAX LIABILITY</b> (reported in thousands)
<b>Range</b>		
<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$2,514</b>
<b>Long Island</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>\$4,127,787</b>
<b>Median</b>		
<b>Clinton</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>\$41,372</b>
<b>Long Island</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>\$4,127,787</b>
<b>Nassau</b>		<b>\$2,373,619</b>
<b>Suffolk</b>		<b>\$1,754,786</b>

**Description:** The total state income tax liability for full year residents (tax year 2001) by county (excluding the five New York City boroughs) is reported in this table.

**Source:** New York State Adjusted Gross Income and Tax Liability: Analysis of State Personal Income Tax Returns by Place of Residence, County Tables 2001. New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

**Method of Ranking:** Long Island and the other 55 counties of New York State (excluding New York City boroughs) were ranked on the total state income tax liability of full year residents from the lowest (1) to the highest (56).

**Key Facts:**

1. Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester are the three counties with the highest income tax liability of all counties in the state (excluding New York City boroughs).
2. Long Island accounts for 36% of state income tax paid by residents of the state outside of New York City boroughs.
3. Nassau County's state income tax liability is 57 times the median for all counties and Suffolk County's state income tax liability is 42 times the median for all counties.
4. Long Island residents paid approximately \$4 billion in state income taxes in 2001.

**Table 10**

**LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>RANK</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Range</b>		
<b>Hamilton and Schuyler</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Westchester</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>7.8</b>
<b>Median</b>		
<b>Cortland</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>.5</b>
<b>Long Island</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>4.4</b>

**Description:** This table reports the number of public school students with Limited English Proficiency divided by the total public school enrollment of the region, 2002-03. Students with Limited English Proficiency typically require more intensive support services in order to assure success in school. Ranks closer to 1 indicate smaller percentages of students with additional support needs arising from Limited English Proficiency.

**Source:** Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts, Chapter 655 Report, New York State Education Department, July 2004.

**Method of Ranking:** The percentage of LEP students on Long Island was compared to the percentage of LEP students in the other 55 counties of New York State (excluding the 5 New York City boroughs) by ranking from the lowest percentage of Limited English Proficiency students (1) to the highest percentage (56).

**Key Facts:**

1. Long Island educates nearly nine times the percentage of LEP students than the median counties, serving the third highest percentage (4.4%) of LEP students compared to all other counties statewide.
2. Outside of New York City, only Westchester and Rockland serve a greater percentage of LEP students than Long Island school districts.

**Table 11**

**PERCENT GRADUATING WITH A REGENTS DIPLOMA**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>RANK</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Range</b>		
<b>Montgomery</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Schohaire</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Median</b>		
<b>Cattaraugus, Oneida, and Chautauqua</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Long Island</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>69</b>

**Description:** This table reports the percentage of 2002-03 high school graduates who satisfied the requirements established by New York State for award of a Regents Diploma. The requirements for awarding the Regents diploma consist of the completion of appropriate credits, coursework, and Regents examinations as outlined in Section 100.5 of NYSED Regulations.

**Source:** Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts, Chapter 655 Report, New York State Education Department, July 2004.

**Method of Ranking:** The graduation outcomes of Long Island school districts is compared to the outcomes in 55 counties of New York State (excluding the 5 New York City boroughs) by ranking from those with the highest percentage of students graduating with a Regents Diploma (1) to those with the lowest percentage (56).

**Key Facts:**

1. Long Island ranks above the statewide median in the percentage of high school students graduating with a Regents diploma.
2. The percentage of high school graduates who earned a Regents Diploma has increased progressively since 1993-94 and is now more than 1.6 times as great as ten years ago (between 40-42%).

**Table 12**

**PERCENT OF GRADUATES CONTINUING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>RANK</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Range</b>		
<b>Rockland</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>92.1</b>
<b>Chemung</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>68.0</b>
<b>Median</b>		
<b>Sullivan and Warren</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>81.8</b>
<b>Long Island</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>90.0</b>

**Description:** This table compares the percentage of 2002-03 high school graduates entering post-secondary educational settings (4-year, 2-year and other post-secondary institutions) as reported in the summer of 2003 by high school principals on Long Island and in counties statewide.

**Source:** Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts, Chapter 655 Report, New York State Education Department, July 2004.

**Method of Ranking:** Long Island was compared to the other 55 counties of New York State (excluding the 5 New York City boroughs) by ranking percentage of graduates continuing post-secondary education from highest (1) to the lowest (56).

**Key Facts:**

1. Long Island ranks 2nd in the percentage of graduates continuing post-secondary education.
2. Only 10.1% of Long Island graduates do not plan to continue their education after high school graduation.

**Table 13**  
**DROP OUT RATE**

COUNTY	RANK	%
<b>Range</b>		
<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Montgomery</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Median</b>		
<b>Oswego</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Wayne</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Long Island</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2.0</b>

**Description:** The drop out rate statistic indicates the percentage of students enrolled in high school (grades 9-12) who left school in 2002-03 prior to graduation without entry into another school or alternative program. Areas with the smallest percentage of students who do not complete high school are ranked closer to 1.

**Source:** Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts, Chapter 655 Report, New York State Education Department July 2004.

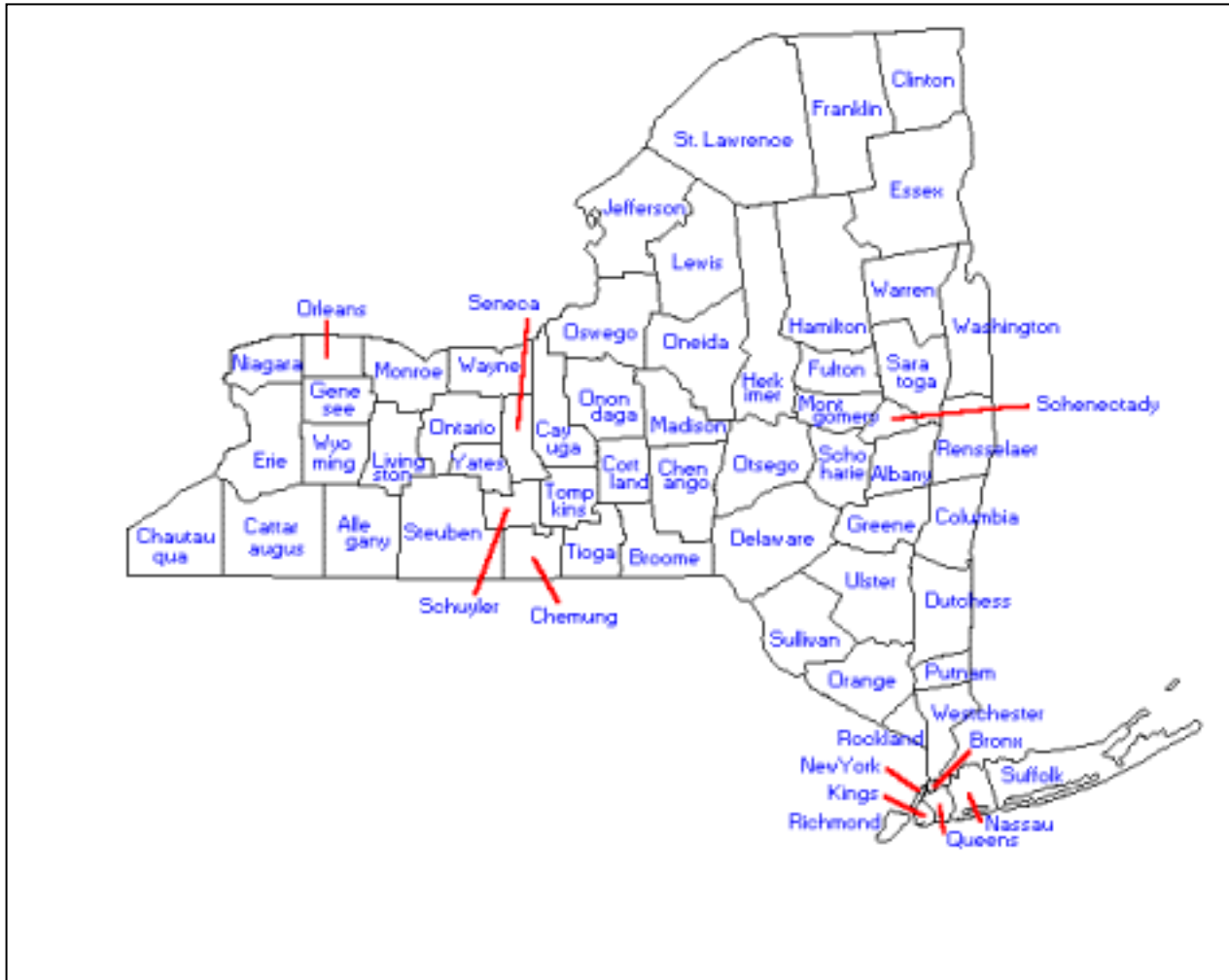
**Method of Rankings:** Long Island is compared to the other 55 counties of New York State (excluding New York City boroughs) by ranking the percentage of drop outs from lowest (1) to highest percentage (56).

**Key Facts:**

1. Long Island falls below the county median in the percentage of high school students reported as dropping out of school.
2. Forty-two counties statewide report a higher drop out rate than Long Island.
3. The reported drop out rate for Long Island has remained at or below 2% since 1995-96.

## Appendix A

### New York State County Enrollment Figures (2003)



#### Counties & Enrollments

Albany	41,665	Oneida	37,684
Allegany	8,191	Onondaga	78,411
Broome	32,521	Ontario	18,204
Cattaraugus	16,428	Orange	66,047
Cayuga	11,815	Orleans	8,041
Chautauqua	23,523	Oswego	24,836
Chemung	13,118	Otsego	9,329
Chenango	9,702	Putnam	16,838
Clinton	13,244	Rensselaer	23,400
Columbia	9,621	Rockland	42,192
Cortland	7,681	St.Lawrence	17,213
Delaware	7,222	Saratoga	35,109
Dutchess	47,299	Schenectady	22,508
Erie	142,794	Schoharie	5,468
Essex	4,961	Schuyler	2,289
Franklin	8,831	Seneca	5,305
Fulton	9,724	Steuben	18,930
Genesee	10,487	Suffolk	260,313
Greene	7,709	Sullivan	11,507
Hamilton	634	Tioga	9,044
Herkimer	11,175	Tompkins	12,852
Jefferson	18,065	Ulster	28,667
Lewis	4,768	Warren	11,228
Livingston	9,901	Washington	10,627
Madison	12,012	Wayne	17,978
Montgomery	7,903	Westchester	147,175
Nassau	210,773	Wyoming	5,659
New York City	1,047,156	Yates	3,050
Niagara	35,379	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>471,086</b>

Source: Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts, Chapter 655 Report, New York State Education Department, July 2004.

## **LIEC BACKGROUND AND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

### Appendix B

In January, 1996, a report entitled Long Island Education: Data and Facts on Costs and Outcomes was issued jointly by the Long Island Association (LIA), the region's largest business and civic organization, and the Long Island Education Coalition (LIEC), an organization of groups representing parents, teachers, school board members, and school administrators. By jointly reviewing, compiling, and publishing a common statement of facts about education in the region, the report significantly improved the tone of the discussion about the public educational system. The report did not end debate about education on Long Island, but rather grounded it in reality. Its impact was to shift the tenor of the discussion from one of accusation and rebuttal, to one that focused on issues, problems, and resolutions.

The LIEC includes the following organizations:

Council of Administrators and Supervisors  
Long Island Association of School Personnel Administrators  
Long Island School Public Relations Association  
Nassau County Council of School Superintendents  
Nassau County Elementary School Principals Association  
Nassau County Secondary School Administrators Association  
Nassau Region PTA  
Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association  
Nassau Association of School Business Officials  
New York State United Teachers (Nassau/Suffolk)  
Reform Educational Financing Inequities Today (R.E.F.I.T)  
School Administrators Association of New York State (Nassau-Suffolk)  
SCOPE Educational Services  
Suffolk Association of School Business Officials  
Suffolk County High School Principals Association  
Suffolk County School Superintendents Association  
Suffolk Region PTA

Appendix C

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