

AID BOOST FOR LI SCHOOLS

Local administrators, legislators optimistic about Cuomo proposal

BY JOHN HILDEBRAND
AND MICHAEL R. EBERT

john.hildebrand@newsday.com
michael.ebert@newsday.com

Many of Long Island's education and political leaders concluded Tuesday that Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's proposed package of \$2.97 billion in school operating aid for the two-county region — a 2.03 percent increase — represents a decent opening bid for 2019-20 funding.

Other officials at the local and state levels, however, contended that New York State could do far better in helping maintain student services in an era of property tax-cap restrictions while also narrowing disparities between school districts rich and poor.

"Very simply, it's a good starting point," said William Johnson, superintendent of Rockville Centre schools and a regional expert on state-aid issues. "In this uncertain economic environment, the governor's made education a priority."

Johnson added that regional school officials in coming weeks will be combing through the fine print of Cuomo's proposal — that is, district-by-district aid figures that were not released until late afternoon Tuesday.

The point, Johnson said, would be to press state lawmakers from Nassau and Suffolk counties to make sure the region is treated fairly in the annual tug-of-war for cash between the Island, New York City and other regions.

Legislators already are keeping that point in mind.

"Look, I think there's good reason to be optimistic about these preliminary numbers," said Sen. Todd Kaminsky (D-Long Beach). "But our legislative delegation is going to be scouring the budget and checking on our respective districts to make sure Long Island schools get the aid increases we're accustomed to."

Figures laid out by the governor before a capacity crowd in Albany — a 3.6 percent increase to \$27.7 billion — repre-

State aid to schools

Here's how funds for operating assistance to Long Island's 124 school districts stack up in Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's proposed budget for 2019-20. Funds for building aid and money allocated to districts required to perform certain community services were not included.

Nassau County:
\$1,080,471,098
increase of 2.60 percent

Suffolk County:
\$1,892,473,294
increase of 1.71 percent

Long Island:
\$2,972,944,392
increase of 2.03 percent

Statewide:
\$23,784,842,329
increase of 2.04 percent

sented total proposed education expenditures statewide. That includes special programs such as preschool services that not all districts offer.

A more granular examination of dollars earmarked specifically to support local districts' operating expenses showed less growth than the overall statewide numbers.

Newsday's calculations found that, under Cuomo's plan, operating aid to 124 districts in Nassau and Suffolk would rise by \$59.17 million, or 2.03 percent, to a total \$2.97 billion.

Assistance statewide would grow \$475.3 million, or 2.04 percent, to \$23.78 billion.

Newsday's calculations did not include figures for building aid, which varies by district, or money allocated to districts for schools required to provide certain community services.

"I think we're going to try to do better," said Assemb. Steven Englebright (D-Setauket), who is the senior member from Long Island on the Assembly Education Committee. "School aid is important because it holds down property taxes while investing in our future and our children."



Students in a third-grade classroom at Jackson Avenue Elementary School in Mineola.

DANIELLE SILVERMAN

At the state level, two top education officials said the governor's budget fell far short of what was needed to provide equitable school services to students living in the most impoverished communities.

Betty Rosa, chancellor of the Board of Regents, and Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia issued a joint statement criticizing as inadequate the \$338 million that Cuomo wants to add to the state's Foundation Aid program next year.

Foundation funding is the state's primary source of school assistance, and it especially helps districts with large numbers of students living below the poverty line.

Cuomo, in Tuesday's budget message, took a different view. He contended that some of the state's larger urban systems were shortchanging schools in poor neighborhoods while funneling more money per-student to schools in affluent neighborhoods.

The solution, according to the governor and some education advocates, is to concentrate more on how funds are distributed between schools, rather than simply between districts.

April 1 is the state's deadline for the governor and lawmakers to agree on a final budget.

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Breakdown
by district
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STATE AID

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's proposed state-aid figures for Long Island school operations in the 2019-20 school year and figures adopted for

2018-19, released Tuesday by the governor's budget office. The figures do not include building aid or money allocated to districts for schools required to provide certain community services, such as medical and dental care. The New Suffolk, Sagaponack and Wainscott dis-

tricts are not included because they are "under 8" districts — those with fewer than eight teachers that receive state aid through a different funding formula. — **COMPILED BY MICHAEL R. EBERT**

SOURCE: NYS DIVISION OF THE BUDGET

NOW ONLINE
District-by-district
proposed
school aid data
newsday.com/data

District	2019-20 State aid	2018-19 State aid	Change in state aid	% change in state aid
NASSAU				
Baldwin	\$29,464,185	\$29,193,472	\$270,713	0.93%
Bellmore	4,750,804	4,863,965	-113,161	-2.33
Bellmore-Merrick	23,834,131	23,525,555	308,576	1.31
Bethpage	11,702,700	11,311,356	391,344	3.46
Carle Place	4,604,236	4,371,510	232,726	5.32
East Meadow	43,821,356	42,606,732	1,214,624	2.85
East Rockaway	6,283,906	6,180,586	103,320	1.67
East Williston	3,589,145	3,374,088	215,057	6.37
Elmont	26,990,580	25,053,409	1,937,171	7.73
Farmingdale	30,815,256	30,321,840	493,416	1.63
Floral Park-Bellerose	4,625,063	4,570,546	54,517	1.19
Franklin Square	7,367,766	7,239,235	128,531	1.78
Freeport	77,364,875	76,278,616	1,086,259	1.42
Garden City	6,307,206	5,740,537	566,669	9.87
Glen Cove	12,806,375	12,651,359	155,016	1.23
Great Neck	9,911,341	9,612,542	298,799	3.11
Hempstead	122,141,837	128,585,377	-6,443,540	-5.01
Herricks	11,526,292	10,964,675	561,617	5.12
Hewlett-Woodmere	10,070,930	9,718,547	352,383	3.63
Hicksville	18,686,232	17,859,017	827,215	4.63
Island Park	3,128,555	3,119,650	8,905	0.29
Island Trees	16,672,591	15,841,321	831,270	5.25
Jericho	5,232,483	5,433,842	-201,359	-3.71
Lawrence	13,352,580	12,908,307	444,273	3.44
Levittown	53,655,606	53,015,405	640,201	1.21
Locust Valley	4,113,841	3,959,549	154,292	3.90
Long Beach	21,921,133	21,530,344	390,789	1.82
Lynbrook	10,372,783	9,792,977	579,806	5.92
Malverne	10,866,018	10,749,489	116,529	1.08
Manhasset	4,611,423	4,498,305	113,118	2.51
Massapequa	27,601,533	26,503,366	1,098,167	4.14
Merrick	6,289,790	6,540,781	-250,991	-3.84
Mineola	7,095,017	6,839,648	255,369	3.73
New Hyde Park-Garden City Park	5,476,629	5,328,399	148,230	2.78
North Bellmore	13,626,227	13,395,540	230,687	1.72
North Merrick	7,148,793	6,889,886	258,907	3.76
North Shore	5,013,717	4,768,580	245,137	5.14
Oceanside	21,082,825	20,573,256	509,569	2.48
Oyster Bay-East Norwich	3,015,725	3,049,255	-33,530	-1.10
Plainedge	17,358,546	17,189,213	169,333	0.99
Plainview-Old Bethpage	19,047,548	18,095,296	952,252	5.26
Port Washington	9,442,267	8,702,248	740,019	8.50
Rockville Centre	10,968,880	10,419,888	548,992	5.27
Roosevelt	52,910,208	51,004,732	1,905,476	3.74
Roslyn	5,973,263	5,413,550	559,713	10.34
Seaford	12,352,557	11,925,172	427,385	3.58
Sewanhaka	36,425,114	34,749,723	1,675,391	4.82
Syosset	16,709,712	16,017,680	692,032	4.32
Uniondale	59,477,644	53,287,687	6,189,957	11.62
Valley Stream 13	11,707,202	11,471,572	235,630	2.05
Valley Stream 24	6,599,181	6,506,605	92,576	1.42
Valley Stream 30	7,811,209	7,129,668	681,541	9.56
Valley Stream Central	23,155,765	22,790,815	364,950	1.60
Wantagh	15,604,088	15,135,922	468,166	3.09
West Hempstead	10,707,382	10,332,548	374,834	3.63
Westbury	57,279,047	54,133,062	3,145,985	5.81
SUFFOLK				
Amagansett	362,141	359,663	2,478	0.69
Amityville	27,323,105	26,402,388	920,717	3.49
Babylon	8,458,523	8,131,783	326,740	4.02
Bay Shore	45,770,449	44,904,649	865,800	1.93
Bayport-Blue Point	14,966,293	14,752,840	213,453	1.45

District	2019-20 State aid	2018-19 State aid	Change in state aid	% change in state aid
Brentwood	\$264,942,799	\$260,878,608	\$4,064,191	1.56%
Bridgehampton	784,133	753,735	30,398	4.03
Center Moriches	11,085,145	10,973,833	111,312	1.01
Central Islip	108,183,873	106,112,368	2,071,505	1.95
Cold Spring Harbor	3,483,287	3,440,399	42,888	1.25
Commack	35,968,623	34,947,796	1,020,827	2.92
Comsewogue	30,381,245	30,048,716	332,529	1.11
Connetquot	47,865,353	48,191,477	-326,124	-0.68
Copiague	59,735,135	58,761,752	973,383	1.66
Deer Park	29,887,091	28,793,444	1,093,647	3.80
East Hampton	3,026,014	2,875,848	150,166	5.22
East Islip	34,930,088	34,961,714	-31,626	-0.09
East Moriches	5,972,938	5,922,628	50,310	0.85
East Quogue	1,346,321	1,375,331	-29,010	-2.11
Eastport-South Manor	25,003,619	24,543,340	460,279	1.88
Elwood	12,373,884	12,220,580	153,304	1.25
Fire Island	366,139	361,597	4,542	1.26
Fishers Island	294,786	296,893	-2,107	-0.71
Greenport	1,525,338	1,509,714	15,624	1.03
Half Hollow Hills	28,933,138	28,754,598	178,540	0.62
Hampton Bays	6,101,495	6,007,914	93,581	1.56
Harborfields	13,979,003	13,915,646	63,357	0.46
Hauppauge	14,164,685	13,987,220	177,465	1.27
Huntington	17,337,520	17,008,262	329,258	1.94
Islip	19,571,862	19,389,097	182,765	0.94
Kings Park	16,198,960	15,342,475	856,485	5.58
Lindenhurst	52,829,635	52,117,222	712,413	1.37
Longwood	89,350,685	87,445,915	1,904,770	2.18
Mattituck-Cutchogue	2,831,236	2,811,878	19,358	0.69
Middle Country	90,719,560	89,236,652	1,482,908	1.66
Miller Place	19,827,002	19,581,156	245,846	1.26
Montauk	938,397	906,760	31,637	3.49
Mount Sinai	16,783,013	16,704,367	78,646	0.47
North Babylon	45,344,585	44,484,086	860,499	1.93
Northport-East Northport	14,290,644	14,121,063	169,581	1.20
Oysterponds	402,486	398,411	4,075	1.02
Patchogue-Medford	64,273,941	63,013,427	1,260,514	2.00
Port Jefferson	3,704,781	3,528,372	176,409	5.00
Quogue	345,766	354,551	-8,785	-2.48
Remsenburg-Speonk	662,100	642,805	19,295	3.00
Riverhead	30,383,076	29,545,124	837,952	2.84
Rocky Point	26,394,497	25,811,040	583,457	2.26
Sachem	116,010,243	114,830,117	1,180,126	1.03
Sag Harbor	1,769,589	1,730,887	38,702	2.24
Sayville	24,297,633	24,153,292	144,341	0.60
Shelter Island	596,393	570,808	25,585	4.48
Shoreham-Wading River	10,318,940	10,396,028	-77,088	-0.74
Smithtown	39,542,336	39,268,706	273,630	0.70
South Country	48,169,413	46,964,608	1,204,805	2.57
South Huntington	34,782,139	34,234,610	547,529	1.60
Southampton	2,481,237	2,458,060	23,177	0.94
Southold	1,917,453	1,897,781	19,672	1.04
Springs	1,732,379	1,719,530	12,849	0.75
Three Village	34,590,622	34,478,135	112,487	0.33
Tuckahoe	1,076,669	1,133,007	-56,338	-4.97
West Babylon	32,392,420	31,925,444	466,976	1.46
West Islip	30,483,663	30,160,798	322,865	1.07
Westhampton Beach	2,373,959	2,297,734	76,225	3.32
William Floyd	117,90,946	113,064,323	4,726,623	4.18
Wyandanch	42,742,871	42,792,459	-49,588	-0.12
Nassau	1,080,471,098	1,053,066,245	27,404,853	2.60%
Suffolk	1,892,473,294	1,860,705,464	31,767,830	1.71
Long Island	2,972,944,392	2,913,771,709	59,172,683	2.03