

Watervliet City Schools IN FISCAL PERIL

An advocacy priority for the WCSS is for the State Legislature and Governor to eliminate or restructure the Gap Elimination Adjustment.



The Gap Elimination Adjustment, or GEA, is the state's policy of withholding promised state aid from districts to meet its fiscal challenges and other budget priorities. Overall, more than \$1.6 billion has been withheld from public schools across the state.

Funding Lost to GEA: **\$4,621,063**

GEA LOSSES PER YEAR

2010-11	\$756,833
2011-12	\$1,512,997
2012-13	\$1,134,748
2013-14	\$701,536
TOTAL	\$4,621,063

2014-15

\$514,949

The Governor's Executive Budget calls for additional reduction toward GEA. Eliminating or restructuring the GEA would prevent further losses and allow Watervliet to continue to offer students high quality programs and services.

JOB LOSSES

10 Teachers
2 Administrators
13 Support Staff

25 POSITIONS CUT

Since the 2010-11 school year

PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS:

- ▶ Elimination of elementary and high school summer school programming
- ▶ Elimination of bowling, tennis, cheerleading and modified sports teams
- ▶ Increased class size districtwide
- ▶ Reduction in BOCES communications, technical services, CTE enrollment
- ▶ Elimination of extracurricular programs districtwide
- ▶ Elimination of contracted nighttime custodial services
- ▶ Elimination of Advanced Placement courses
- ▶ Consolidation of bus routes

Despite rising costs, Watervliet is receiving less state aid than it did in 2007-08.

Employee Health Insurance, Retirement Contributions, Salaries, Special Education, State Education Reform initiatives.

Lack of fair and equitable State funding, State aid lost to GEA, Property Tax Levy Cap, dwindling district reserve funds.

A **1% LEVY INCREASE TO TAXPAYERS** WOULD GENERATE APPROXIMATELY **\$61,000** FOR THE 2014-15 SCHOOL BUDGET.

Be an advocate for the students of Watervliet.

Reach out to our elected representatives to remind them of their constitutional responsibility to provide fair and adequate funding for our public schools, and ask them to immediately eradicate the GEA.

For more information on how to be an advocate for Watervliet Schools, visit: www.watervlietcityschools.org.