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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



JAMES L. SEWARD
SENATOR
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April 8, 2016

SPECIAL BULLETIN: HELP FOR OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

State funding to support our students, schools and communities

Dear Ruscio Family:

Our local schools have a special place in our communities. Schools are where students learn, prepare for their futures, and where the community gathers to celebrate student achievement in academics, music, the arts, and athletics.

That's why I made it a priority to push for more state dollars for our schoolchildren.

This year, school aid will jump \$1.5 billion in the new state budget – hundreds of millions more than the governor originally proposed.

Across the state, aid to our public schools will approach \$25 billion – the highest level of funding in state history. When combined with the STAR property tax relief program, the state's commitment to our public schools will top \$28 billion.

I achieved my major goal, and the subject of a bill I sponsored last year: an end to the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). I voted against it in 2009 when it was instituted and have worked ever since to end it. We did so this year.

The budget also provides an unprecedented level of Foundation Aid for our schools, with \$100 million in Community School funding.

The record school aid will help foster success in every classroom across my district.

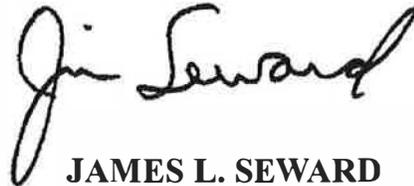
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We have a few issues left to work on, such as uncoupling state aid increases from the need to have approved, updated APPR plans in place. I expect further discussions on this issue.

The new state budget clearly reflects my strong commitment to the future of our local public schools, our rural communities, and our students.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Seward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JAMES L. SEWARD

State Senator

P.S. My website – seward.nysenate.gov – has more information on the state budget and how it helps our schools.