

## Survey Text



## Tax Cap Survey

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**As Superintendents of Long Island school districts, we are deeply concerned that forced budget reductions will negatively affect our students. As you know, a property tax cap has been put into place to bring relief to New York residents in these tough times. While the tax cap is meant to help our communities, we are concerned that reductions in programs and services will decrease our ability to teach our children. As residents of Long Island, you are impacted by the schools even if you do not have children enrolled; therefore, your voice is important. We would like to hear your opinions about school budgets, programs and services. Your answers to the questions on this survey will help us to make decisions and address our financial situation. Please be assured that your responses will be kept confidential and that your individual answers will not be shared. Thank you for sharing your views.**

**Education Budget Background**

**The education budget can be complicated because it contains many pieces. The details can be easily misunderstood or misrepresented. We need to make sure that the community has an accurate understanding of the budget situation. Your answers to the following questions will help us understand what information needs to be shared. Please indicate your level of awareness of each of the following budget facts.**

**1. Administrators include positions such as Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Central Office Directors, Principals, and Assistant Principals. Were you aware that only 2% of the staff employed by Long Island school districts are administrators? (Select one option)**

- Yes
- No

**2. State law mandates programs and services that must be provided by school districts. These services, over which the district has no control, include Special Education for disabled students, English language instruction for non-English speaking students, support for students with emotional and behavioral problems, health services, and transportation. These services are supported by non-instructional staff like psychologists, counselors, social workers, nurses, and bus drivers. Are you aware that because these services are required, the school districts have no options but to hire the appropriate staff?(Select one option)**

- Yes
- No

**3. Are you aware that more than 70% of the budget is spent on providing direct services to students? This part of the budget covers the salaries and benefits of all district teaching staff. (Select one option)**

- Yes
- No

**4. The property tax levy is one source of funding for the school district budget. Other sources of funding are state aid, balances left over from the prior year, and other revenue sources. Are you aware that the property tax levy accounts for 70% of the education funding on Long Island? (Select one option)**

- Yes
- No

**5. For the 2012-2013 school budget, a property tax levy cap will be put into place. This cap limits the amount the property tax levy can increase to 2% (plus exclusions) or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. Are you aware of the override provision allowing the 2% cap to be exceeded if supported by 60% of voters? (Select one option)**

- Yes
- No

**6. School district expenses are expected to increase next year due to costs that are beyond the school district's control.**

- Health insurance will go up by 14%
- Teacher Retirement System payments will rise by 33%
- Employee Retirement System payments will rise by 40%
- Contractual Salary increase per collective bargaining agreements
- Cost of Fuel for transportation is expected to increase
- New State required educational changes adding tens of thousands of dollars

**Given the 2% property tax levy cap, do you believe that the school district can continue to provide the same level of programs and services to students without exceeding the Cap?(Select one option)**

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

**Potential Cuts to Programs and Services**

**7. Without an increase in state education funding and a 2% cap on the property tax levy, school districts face the real possibility of decreasing programs and services for students. Please share your views on which instructional programs are most important to protect from budget cuts. From the items below, pick the three most important items. Rank your selections such that: Rank 1 = Most Important Rank 2 = Second Most Important Rank 3 = Third Most Important [ Please rank exactly 3 option(s). ]**

- Instructional programs
- Elementary class size
- Secondary class size
- Advanced Placement/College courses
- High School electives
- Music
- Art
- Science research
- Foreign language programs
- Library media programs
- Occupational education

**8. Please share your views on which extra-curricular or non-instructional programs are most important to protect from budget cuts. From the items below, pick the three most important items. Rank your selections such that: Rank 1 = Most Important Rank 2 = Second Most Important Rank 3 = Third Most Important [ Please rank exactly 3 option(s). ]**

- Guidance programs

Social/Emotional support programs for students	<input type="text"/>
Athletics	<input type="text"/>
After school clubs	<input type="text"/>
Field trips	<input type="text"/>

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**9. Place yourself in the position of school district superintendent. As the superintendent, you are faced with increasing costs, a limited budget, and a possible need to make cuts. What would you do? Please be constructive as your input will help us make decisions.**

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**Demographics**

**10. Are you a parent of a child attending a public school? (Select one option)**

Yes Go to Page No. 7

No Stop, you have finished the survey

If Did Not Answer Then Go to Page No. 7

**11. What school district do you live in? (Select one option)**

- Amagansett UFSD
- Amityville UFSD
- Babylon UFSD
- Bay Shore UFSD
- Bayport-Blue Point UFSD
- Brentwood UFSD
- Bridgehampton UFSD
- Central Islip UFSD
- Cold Spring Harbor CSD

- Commack UFSD
- Comsewogue UFSD
- Connetquot CSD
- Copiague UFSD
- Deer Park UFSD
- East Islip UFSD
- Elwood UFSD
- Fire Island UFSD
- Half Hollow Hills CSD
- Hauppauge UFSD
- Huntington UFSD
- Islip UFSD
- Lindenhurst UFSD
- Longwood CSD
- Mattituck/Cutchogue SD
- Middle Country CSD
- Miller Place UFSD
- Montauk UFSD
- Mount Sinai UFSD
- New Suffolk SD
- Northport/East Northport
- Oysterponds UFSD
- Patchogue-Medford UFSD
- Port Jefferson UFSD
- Remsenberg/SpeonkSD
- Riverhead CSD
- Rocky Point UFSD
- Sachem CSD
- Sag Harbor UFSD
- Sayville UFSD
- Shelter Island UFSD
- Shoreham/Wading River
- Smithtown CSD

- South Huntington UFSD
- Southampton UFSD
- Southold UFSD
- Springs UFSD
- Three Village UFSD
- Tuckahoe CSD
- West Islip UFSD
- Westhampton Beach
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**12. Are you a graduate of this school district?** (Select one option)

- Yes
- No

**13. Are you a school district employee?** (Select one option)

- Yes
- No

**14. What is the grade level of your oldest child? (Select one option)**

- PK
- K
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

If you have any questions about this process or any aspect of the survey, please contact your K12 *Insight* point of contact, Todd Keffer, at 703.956.6460 x 316 or by email at [tkeffer@k12insight.com](mailto:tkeffer@k12insight.com).