

How to use this Legislative Position Paper to lobby for Key Proposals affecting the Broadalbin-Perth Central School District

The Broadalbin-Perth Central School District administration and Board of Education are very concerned about what the governor's state budget proposals could mean for our school district in 2011-12 and beyond.

You are invited to use the information here in whatever way you wish. For instance, you can simply duplicate the letter, add a note at the bottom saying that you agree, add your name, address and signature, and mail or fax the page to legislators. If you prefer, you can write your own letter, using or adapting these key messages as you wish. (Note: in lobbying, letters and faxes to legislators are the most effective, phone calls are somewhat effective and e-mails are the least effective.)

The more times legislators receive this or similar letters from B-P residents the stronger our message will be! Thank you for helping us communicate with state officials on these urgent issues.

How to Contact Key State Leaders

Senator representing the Broadalbin-Perth area

Senator Hugh T. Farley

Room 706 LOB, Albany, NY 12247

(518) 455-2181

Email: farley@senate.state.ny.us

Governor

Governor Andrew Cuomo

State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224

(518) 474-8390

To email, visit www.ny.gov/governor and click "contact."

Assemblyman representing Fulton County (117th district)

Assemblyman Marc W. Butler

Room 318 LOB, Albany, NY 12248

(518) 455-5393

Email: butlerm@assembly.state.ny.us

Leader of the New York State Senate

Senator Dean Skelos

Room 909 LOB, Albany, NY 12247

(518) 455-2701

Email: skelos@senate.state.ny.us

Assemblywoman representing Edinburg and Providence (113th district)

Assemblywoman Teresa R. Sayward

Room 940 LOB, Albany, NY 12248

(518) 455-5565

Email: sayward@assembly.state.ny.us

Leader of the New York State Assembly

Assemblyman Sheldon Silver

Room 932 LOB, Albany, NY 12248

(518) 455-3791

Email: speaker@assembly.state.ny.us

Assemblyman representing Amsterdam (105th district)

Assemblyman George Amedore

Room 426 LOB, Albany, NY 12248

(518) 455-5197

Email: amedorg@assembly.state.ny.us

Chair of the Senate Education Committee

Senator John J. Flanagan

Room 805 LOB, Albany, NY 12247

(518) 455-2031

Email: flanagan@senate.state.ny.us

Assemblyman representing Galway (110th district)

Assemblyman James Tedisco

Room 933 LOB, Albany, NY 12248

(518) 455-3751

Email: tediscj@assembly.state.ny.us

Chair of the Assembly Education Committee

Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan

Room 836 LOB, Albany, NY 12248

(518) 455-4851

Email: nolanc@assembly.state.ny.us

Dear

We understand that the State of New York is functionally bankrupt, and at the Broadalbin-Perth Central School District, we are doing our share to think in new ways and to hold down costs:

- Our Board of Education and administration are seeking salary and other concessions from our collective bargaining units.
- We have reduced our staff by approximately 10 percent over the past two years and discovered many new ways to reduce, combine, reconfigure, re-prioritize or simply do without various school services.

In return, we ask our state leaders to do their share and ensure that New York school districts can come out of this crisis with real improvements in their longterm legal abilities to hold down costs. New York needs bold, courageous action to change the long-standing conditions that have created its current fiscal problems.

We ask you to be clear and be firm and only vote to approve a state budget proposal that addresses the school funding inequities that are inherent in the governor's proposed state aid cuts – in particular the Gap Elimination Adjustment – and that you will only support a spending plan that takes into consideration the needs of **all** students throughout the state.

We ask legislators to understand that the Governor's triple assault of proposed lower expense-driven aid, higher gap adjustments, AND tax caps is crippling schools. If tax caps become a reality, it is essential that school districts have more flexibility and real mandate relief. We are asking you to support true and meaningful:

- **Equitable Distribution of State Education Aid Throughout the State.**
- **Mandate Relief.**
- **Reform of the Triborough Amendment.**
- **Statewide Health Insurance Plan for All Public Employees.**
- **Pension Reform.** In Broadalbin-Perth, our employee pension contribution is expected to increase from \$978,000 to \$1.5 million for the 2011-12 school year budget, an approximately 53 percent increase.
- **Remedies to restore funding to our school districts that are affected by the Hudson River – Black River Regulatory District.** B-P is owed approximately \$196,000 in overdue school taxes from the HRBRRD for the 2009-10 school year, and an additional \$279,000 for the 2010-11 school year, totaling approximately \$475,000. The cost of covering the outstanding overdue cost of the HRBRRD unpaid taxes is equal to a 4 percent school tax levy increase for 2011-12.

We are confident that you'll do what's right for our students and our communities.

Thank you,