

OSSINING PRIDE

Ossining is **PROUD** of its

- 4,700 **diverse student-body** that has increased by 17% or 660 students since 2008 with an additional 400 Middle and High School students expected by 2021. Students represent 55 different countries of which:
 - 51% are Latino/Hispanic;
 - 28.9% are Caucasian;
 - 13.2 % are African-American/Black; and
 - 4.8% are Asian.
- Recognition by Intel as having the **top High School for math and science in the nation** in 2012.
- Commitment to **Early Childhood** education through:
 - Privately funded First Steps program has served 2,400+ children ages 0 – 3 years old since 2002.
 - Grant and locally funded Pre-K program that educates over 250 students per year.
 - Grant funded literacy program that has served 600+ adults during a four-year period.
- **Dual Language** programs available in all district schools.
- Plan to partner with local universities to develop curriculum aligned with the P-Tech model.
- Reputation as the **“Best Community for Music Education”** for three consecutive years.
- **Supportive student-focused community**- the Ossining Matters Education Foundation has given approximately \$750,000 to support District programs and technology initiatives.
- 2013 NYS Girls Basketball Champions
- 2013 NYS Champion Wrestler
- 70 Scholar-Athlete Teams over the past four years
- Developing **Community Learning Center** intended to offer students and community members with a perpetual learning environment that leverages partnerships with local businesses, municipalities, not-for-profit organizations and the availability of district facilities to provide a financially self-sustaining learning center isolated from school budget & tax levy implications.



Ossining is **NOT SO PROUD** of its

- 27% increase in students living in poverty
- 35% increase in Free/Reduced Price Lunch students
- 23% decrease in Adjusted Gross Income per pupil
- 7% decrease in Property Value per pupil

Declining revenue resulting in dramatic program cuts:

- 100+ positions abolished over the past four years.
- Library Media Specialists cut from elementary schools.
- Reduced Teaching Assistant hours.
- Elementary after-school programs eliminated.

"...higher-poverty districts are able to raise less in property taxes than low-poverty districts for the same level of tax effort."- The Stealth Inequities of School Funding, How State and Local School Finance Systems Perpetuate Inequitable Student Spending, Bruce D. Baker and Sean P. Corcoran September, 2012.

Tax Levy Under the Cap, At All-Time Lows

We have a revenue problem not an expense problem. As the chart below highlights Tax Levy increases have declined sharply over the past eight years.

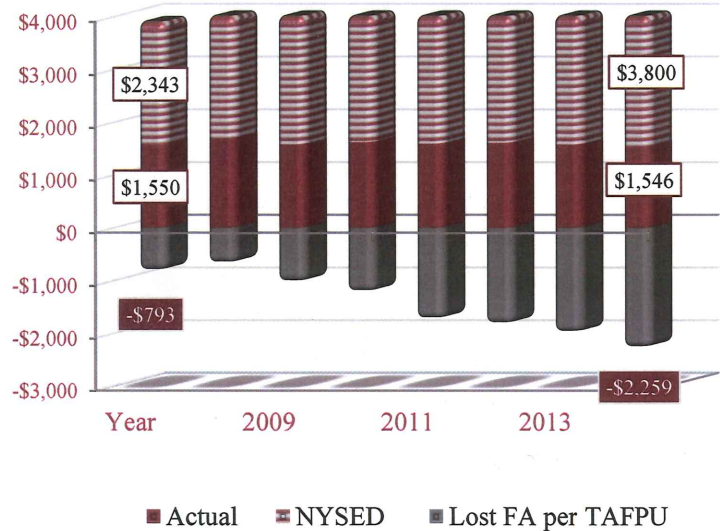


Graph 1

Foundation Aid: Hold Harmless Provision Harms Ossining

Foundation Aid (FA) was established to provide funding to schools based on the cost of providing an adequate education, adjusted to reflect student need and community wealth. Unfortunately, the Hold Harmless provision and the funding freeze have Ossining UFSD is the eighth lowest Foundation Aid funded school district in New York State despite the significant increases in student needs and enrollment and declining community wealth.

In fact, the actual amount of Foundation Aid per Pupil projected in the 2015 school year is lower than the FA per pupil received in 2008.



Graph 2

Significant Sustainable Savings

We have dissected every non-instructional area in search of efficiency, economies of scale and expense reductions wherever possible to preserve as many programs for as long as possible. We successfully reversed the trajectory of health, administrative and transportation expense growth back toward 2009 levels as depicted in the graph below. These cuts have resulted in over \$6.3 million in the past year alone. Additional savings/cost avoidance includes the following:

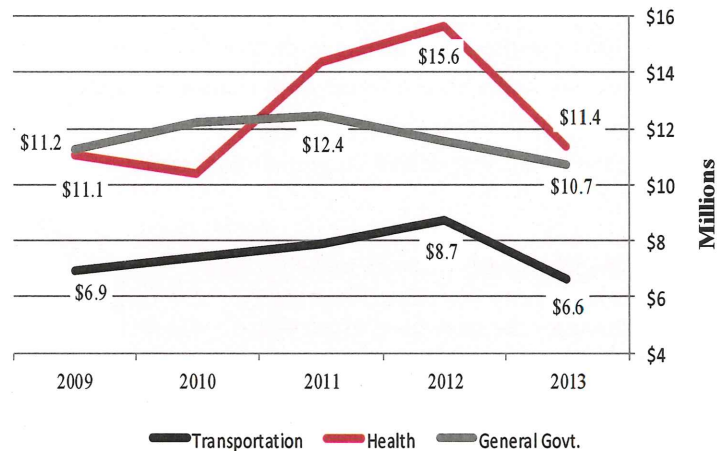
.....“hold-harmless” provision, which guarantees that each district will receive at least as much aid as it did the previous year. This provision raises the cost of reform because it prevents the state from reallocating aid away from districts that do not need it to those that do.”

--- John Yinger, *Estimating the Cost of An Adequate Education*, EFAP Director, Syracuse University, December 2004

- Identified \$4.6 million in Capital improvements with no budget impact through an Energy Performance Contract (EPC).
- Received \$1 million in competitive grants.
- Negotiated Tri-borough for Teacher & Administrator Contracts.
- Saved \$1.2 million over 12 years by re-financing bonds.

How Much Aid is Due:

If Foundation Aid was funded in accordance with the last phase-in schedule, Ossining should receive an additional \$7.5 million in the 2014-15 school year, which is 66.5% of the difference between the Foundation Aid base & total formula Foundation Aid.



Graph 3

Source: www.openbookny.com