



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Susan Serino

## SERINO ANNOUNCES MAJOR WIN FOR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SUSAN SERINO April 1, 2016

| ISSUE: **EDUCATION, GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT (GEA)**



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*State Budget Includes Unprecedented School Funding and Fully Eliminates GEA*

ALBANY, NY—Senator Sue Serino (R, C, I—Hyde Park) announced today that she successfully secured unprecedented funding for New York’s Schools in this year’s State Budget.

*“Since taking office last year, improving the quality of schools in our community has been one of my highest priorities,” said Serino. “Being able to provide a historic increase in school aid while also controlling state spending and providing unprecedented tax cuts for families across the state makes this budget a win for our schools, for taxpayers and for our communities.”*

**The final state budget included the highest school aid figure in New York’s history, \$24.8 billion.** It also includes, \$340 million in annual funding for the Statewide Universal Full-Day Prekindergarten program and continues the \$2 billion Smart Schools program.

Senator Serino also noted that this year’s budget finally fully repealed the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), *“The GEA has cost schools in our Senate District over \$160 million since its inception. I have been fighting for its full repeal since taking office and earlier this year, I promised to make it one of my highest priorities in this year’s state budget. This was funding that was taken from schools to fill budget holes at a time when NYC interests dominated state government and it is high time that our schools get the funding they deserve.”*

*“The GEA was bad for taxpayers, it was bad for our schools, and worst of all it was bad for our kids. I am especially proud to see this measure repealed once and for all.”*