

<p style="text-align: center;">Maria Pereira Board President mpereira@peekskillschools.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Peekskill City School District 1031 Elm Street Peekskill, NY 10566</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dr. David Mauricio Superintendent of Schools dmauricio@peekskillschools.org</p>
<p>Issues</p>	<p>Problem(s)</p>	<p>Need(s)</p>
<p><u>Equity & Equality</u></p> <p>“The quality of a child’s education should not be a function of where that child resides.” As noted in the January, 2014 report on Inequality in NY School Funding Report, schools similar to Peekskill most vulnerable children are being impacted by the State’s failure to provide the appropriate levels of funding directly impacting student learning and an equivalent education in all areas including class size, extra- curricular, college-ready courses, unfunded mandates etc.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The inequality in funding between poor and wealthy districts continues to grow. 2. Peekskill, in comparison to the five- closest schools in our area have: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Consistently highest number of students per classroom per teacher ratio.</i> b. <i>The lowest cost per pupil by a range of \$2,000 to \$6,000 per student.</i> c. <i>The lowest tax levy, approx. \$6,000 per student.</i> d. <i>The highest free and reduced lunch percentage than the other districts. We are a Community Eligibility Provision District(free lunch and breakfast for all)</i> e. <i>The highest percentage of newcomers and ELL Students.</i> f. <i>The highest percentage of Students with Special Needs.</i> 	<p><u>The Right to an Equivalent and Sound Education for our Students</u></p> <p>Provide the resources to insure that all students have equal opportunities to succeed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Remove the School-Aid Growth Cap.</i> 2. <i>Fund unfunded Mandates.</i> 3. <i>Eliminate the Tax Cap.</i> 4. <i>Fully Fund full-time preschool for eligible children.</i> 5. <i>Provide Additional Revenue for our increasing English Language Learners.</i>

Fiscal Equity/Parity

Revise state aid formulas, by unfreezing Foundation Aid. This coupled with a Tax Cap reduces our ability to raise revenue to provide the equivalent educational opportunities of our suburban counterparts. Peekskill was “behind” prior to the tax cap implementation and with increasing enrollment, we are falling further behind.

1. Since 2007-2008, the Peekskill City School District state aid revenue has not been fully funded. Under the current formula we have been short-changed **\$69,302,417** under the foundation formula. For 2020-21 school year the loss if aid amounted to a reduction of **\$11,376,041**.
2. The Peekskill City School District enrollment has increased by nearly 500 students in the past 6 years. Moreover, a high percentage of these students are newcomers requiring special services in ELL and Special Education Programs.
3. In the past 3 years our ELL population has increased over 300 students, many who are new to the country.

Restoration

Foundation Aid: Peekskill’s funding has not been adjusted, which translates into less services, support, and opportunities for our students.

Let the formula run as it was intended!

Restore Foundation Aid in the amount of **\$11,376,04** to Peekskill.