



**Peekskill City School District**  
*A System Focused on Every Student; Every Day*

*The Mission of the Peekskill City School District is to educate students in a caring, inspiring Environment characterized by a spirit of excellence and high expectations; prepare graduates to meet or exceed standards; graduate students who respect and appreciate cultural diversity; and prepare students to pursue adult lives as contributing citizens of our local and global community.*

*Mary Keenan Foster,  
Interim Superintendent of Schools*

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**Peekskill City School District: A Small City School District in Northern Westchester**  
*Academic Excellence for Every Student; Every Day*

**The Right to an Equivalent and Sound Education for our Students**

Peekskill is a multi-cultural community located on the Hudson River at the gateway to the Hudson Highlands. Originally settled by the Dutch, Peekskill played an important role in the American Revolution and was a major manufacturing center in the nineteenth century. The city has been experiencing a recent Renaissance as a result of Peekskill's growing reputation as a home for artists and art galleries. With a city population of approximately 25,000, our growing student body of 80% free and reduced lunch is approximately 62% Hispanic American, 26% African American, 9% Caucasian, 2% Asian and less than 1% Native American.

Over the years our programs have been significantly reduced with respect to the loss of state and federal funding. This has directly impacted our district that continues to grow in size and requires us to accommodate various literacy challenges and needed support for our English Language Learner programs/mandates, which encompass approximately 23% of our student body.

In a year where the CPI is close to 0% and our tax cap limit could be less than last years; we are facing dire budgetary constraints. We are running out of options, Foundation aid need to be restored.

It is our responsibility to provide educational opportunities that are equitable to our suburban counterparts so as our students are afforded parity as it relates to remaining competitive post high-school and within the global economy.

The next page provides the issues and problems Peekskill City School is facing with respect the details around fiscal equity, need, and a sound education for all learners. Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education President

<p>Lisa Aspinall-Kellawon Board President laspinall@peekskillcsd.org</p>	<p><b>Peekskill City School District</b> 1031 Elm Street Peekskill, NY 10566</p>	<p>Mary Foster Interim Superintendent of Schools mfoster@peekskillcsd.org</p>
<p><b>Issues</b></p>	<p><b>Problem(s)</b></p>	<p><b>Need(s)</b></p>
<p><u>Equity &amp; 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"> <li>1. The inequality in funding between poor and wealthy districts continues to grow.</li> <li>2. Peekskill, in comparison to the five-closest schools in our area have: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Consistently highest number of students per classroom per teacher ratio.</i></li> <li>b. <i>The lowest cost per pupil by a range of \$2,000 to \$6,000 per student.</i></li> <li>c. <i>The lowest tax levy, approx. \$6,000 per student.</i></li> <li>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></li> <li>e. <i>The highest percentage of newcomers and ELL Students.</i></li> <li>f. <i>The highest percentage of Students with Special Needs.</i></li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<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"> <li>1. <i>Fully Fund Foundation Aid</i></li> <li>2. <i>Fund unfunded Mandates.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Eliminate the Tax Cap.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Fully Fund full-time preschool for eligible children.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Provide Additional Revenue for our increasing English Language Learners.</i></li> </ol>
<p><u>Fiscal Equity/Parity</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Since 2009-2010, the Peekskill City School District state aid revenue has not been fully funded. Under the current formula we have been shortchanged <b>\$45,874,700</b> under the foundation formula. For 2017-18 school year the loss if aid amounted to a reduction of \$13,234,270</li> <li>2. The Peekskill City School District enrollment has increased by nearly 500 students in the past 5 years. Moreover, a high percentage of these students are newcomer’s requiring special services in ELL and Special Education Programs.</li> <li>3. In the past two years our ELL population has increased over 300 students, many who are new to the country.</li> </ol>	<p><u>Restoration</u></p> <p>Foundation Aid: Peekskill’s funding has not been adjusted, which translates into less services, support, and opportunities for our students.</p> <p><b><u>Let the formula run as it was intended!</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Restore Foundation Aid in the amount \$45,874,700 to Peekskill.</i></li> </ul>