

Stand Up 4 Upstate Schools

[Hilker, Timothy M.](#)

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To: [GalwayEmailUsersAll](#)

Good evening! The superintendent and I, along with several community members, had the pleasure of attending a collaborative event this evening on the current condition of school finance and the future of state aid. Dr. Rick Timbs, of the Statewide School Finance Consortium (SSFC), presented alongside several area superintendents on the importance of action and advocacy on the part of those with a vested interest in public education. We would like to thank the members of the board of education and the GTA for their representation of the school district at tonight's event.

The theme of tonight's presentation was highlighting the gross inequities that exist in the distribution of state aid to schools. For those who may not be aware, the state has recovered approximately \$8 billion of its deficit on the backs of schools over the past several years through the "Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA)". To make matters worse, the data suggests that has come largely at the expense of upstate schools.

Last year, the legislature restored some state aid through the process of "Gap Elimination Restoration". In the words of Dr. Timbs, "The state reduced our reduction." This was neither a permanent or completely equitable solution, but it was a small step in the right direction.

The time to take action is now; that is the reason for my e-mail. By the end of January, Governor Cuomo will likely have a proposed budget. The legislature should take action on the state budget by April 1, and the school district will have to adopt its budget by April 25. Please don't wait to be heard!

If you have a Twitter account, please send #Standup4Upstateschools to @NYGovCuomo as soon, and as frequently, as you feel is appropriate. You may additionally contact Assemblyman James Tedisco by e-mail at [tediscj@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:tediscj@assembly.state.ny.us) or by phone at (518) 370-2812. Senator Hugh Farley can be reached by e-mail at [Farley@nysenate.gov](mailto:Farley@nysenate.gov) or by phone at (518) 843-2188. Please help us send the message that the distribution of state aid is inequitable and that the GEA is unsustainable for upstate schools! If you would like to find out more information on this topic, I would encourage you to research the SSFC and/or the Rural Schools Association.

Tim Hilker  
School Business Administrator  
Galway CSD