

Special Act Schools Taskforce

**A Public School Education for
NY State's Neediest Students**



Who We Are

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Where We Are

Berkshire Farms

George Junior Republic

Greenburgh Eleven

Greenburgh-Graham

Greenburgh-North Castle

Hawthorne Cedar Knolls

Little Flower

Mount Pleasant Blythedale

Mount Pleasant Cottage

Randolph Academy

Where Our Students Are From

The 6 Westchester Special Acts:

94 assembly districts

48 senate districts

Little Flower in Long Island:

58 (of 124) school districts



Who Are Our Students?

Academic Deficiencies

Behavioral Disorders

Psychiatric Disorders

Spectrum Disorders

Intellectually Challenged

Trauma

Juvenile Delinquent / Raise the Age

Emotional Disturbance

Medically Fragile



What We Provide

Small Nurturing Environments

Specialized Programs

Highly Trained Staff

Life Changing Difference

Cost Savings

Tamia



Elizabeth





How Are We Funded?

Tuition Based (Different from BOCES)

NYSED sets our tuition rate based on expenses from two years ago

Special Acts receive no Foundation Aid

Limited flexibility to use funds or services

Reserve funds not permitted

- Forced to utilize Revenue Anticipation Notes to manage cash flow

Specific Problems Caused by Current Rate Setting Practice

No tuition rate issued since 2011

-Greenburgh-North Castle

Needs to replace HVAC unit which will cost at least \$650,000 and has no mechanism inside methodology to fully pay for this project

-Mount Pleasant-Blythedale

Forced to remove students from classrooms to complete repairs before end of fiscal year rather than wait until school is out of session.

-Mount Pleasant Cottage School

No funding to hire a librarian or have clubs or sports

-Greenburgh Eleven

Disallowed costs in reconciliation forced repayment of \$275,000 to home school districts, which severely jeopardized cash flow, including the ability to make payroll

-Little Flower

What Do We Need?

- Timely tuition rate
- 4% reserve fund
- Flexibility in use of funds
- Recognition as a public school

=ZERO \$ IMPACT ON NYS BUDGET

Bills and Budget

- **Support S5606/A8001 (Mayer/Benedetto):** *Permitting Special Act school districts to establish reserve funds.*
- **Support S5192/A7120 (Mayer/Benedetto):** *Permits use of interim plus rates.*
- **Support A1585 (Abinanti):** *Increases flexibility in use of funds for facilities improvements.*
- **Defeat** Executive Budget proposal to eliminate 18.42% CSE State funding share for room/board of students with severe disabilities.