

# Harrison Parent Teacher Council Six Schools One Community

Dear Parents,

This packet has been prepared to provide parents with pertinent information about the impact of the Governor's proposed 2% tax cap and the major devastation it will have on the quality of our educational system in the future.

The proposed tax cap will result in cuts that will lead to a dramatic reduction of school services in communities that have traditionally prided themselves on the **high quality** of their schools.

Districts can only cut in areas of the budget that they have control. Under a tax cap our school district will be forced to eliminate teachers, increase class size and make difficult choices regarding vital programming such as:

- The elimination of elementary foreign language
- The loss of librarians
- The loss of full day kindergarten
- The reduction of music, performing arts and visual arts programs
- The reduction or elimination of guidance positions
- The loss of sports programs
- The reduction or elimination of teacher aid positions
- The reduction of transportation.

How can our children be expected to compete nationally and internationally if classroom instruction is compromised by an increase in class size and the cutting of core programs? How will they be able to distinguish themselves without foreign language, music, the arts, sports and co-curricular activities that enrich their education? How can we cut programs and services to our youngest learners and expect them to develop to their full potential? The overall effect will be lower performing schools.

Please help us to ensure that the **quality** of our schools is preserved. If the tax cap is approved not only will it have serious repercussions for our school district but will take years if not decades to overcome.

### **How Can You HELP?**

The New York State Senate passed S.2706 (tax levy cap legislation), but the Assembly has not yet taken up the bill. Parents and members of the community need to call, email, and write to members of the New York State Assembly and Senate, as well as to Governor Cuomo.

We are asking you and your spouse to print your name & address and sign the **six** letters provided in this packet. Please return the letters to your PTA Mail box by March 22, 2011.

Senator Suzi Oppenheimer  
222 Grace Church St. 3rd Floor  
Port Chester, NY 10573  
914-934-5250  
[oppenhei@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:oppenhei@senate.state.ny.us)

Assemblyman Robert Castelli  
4 New King St. Suite 125  
White Plains, NY 10604  
914-686-7335  
[castelr@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:castelr@assembly.state.ny.us)

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224  
518-474-8390  
<http://www.governor.ny.gov/>  
(click on contact)

Thank you,

The Harrison Parent Teacher Council