



JOHN LORENTZ
Superintendent of School
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Dear Members of the Farmingdale Educational Community:

I am writing to inform you that the Nassau County Legislator is planning to eliminate the "County Guarantee." This would result in shifting the cost of reimbursing any overpayment of taxes to the individual school districts.
AS A RESULT OF THIS ACTION HOMEOWNERS WILL NEED TO PAY HIGHER TAXES.

Presently, the Nassau County Assessor is charged with the responsibility of assessing all property within the County. School districts use this assessment roll in the estimation of their revenues and in the preparation of their budgets. However, school districts do not and should not participate in this assessment process. Where such assessments have been declared erroneous, it has always been the responsibility of Nassau County, as the sole assessing entity, to pay all property tax refunds.

If the Nassau County Legislator eliminates the "County Guarantee," school districts will be faced with yet another financial burden and unfunded mandate which will, in turn, have a detrimental effect on our educational programs.

For example, we estimate that throughout Nassau County there will be an overpayment of approximately \$80 million dollars. If you divide this overpayment of \$80 million dollars among the 56 local school districts, this would represent an additional financial burden of approximately \$1.4 million dollars per school district. This is an average and many districts will need to budget much more than this figure. For many districts, this additional financial burden would mean cutting educational programs and reducing staff.

An additional burden of \$1.4 million translates into approximately twenty-two teaching positions. Cutting twenty-two teaching positions would result in higher class sizes, and there could also be cuts to other support personnel like social workers, psychologists, and guidance counselors, at a time when our children need them most.

Nassau County residents have come to expect excellence from our schools. The school districts in Nassau County provide our children with an outstanding education, and our graduates attend the finest colleges and universities throughout the country. In order to maintain the excellence of our school districts, it is important NOT to place this additional financial burden on us.

Please contact your local representative and tell them not to eliminate the "County Guarantee."

John Lorentz, Superintendent of Schools

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<http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/Legis/LD/12/contact.html>

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<http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/Legis/LD/17/contact.html>