

EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL FUNDING POTENTIAL NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

As school starts again, we are reminded of Thomas Jefferson's quote "The education of the young is the most important function of a society." Our NYS Constitution requires the legislature to provide a sound basic education for every child in NYS. This goal can be achieved through fair and adequate state educational funding. A costing out study was made measuring the amount spent versus the amount that should be spent to provide a sound basic education. Other states have done this. Under new formulas no district would lose money. The legislators must find a way to increase state funding and alleviate the burden on property tax payers. We need NYS SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM LEGISLATION.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 517 of the 702 school districts are under funded according to a NYS court approved methodology.
- NYS has the least equal educational funding of all 50 states
- Funding Public Education was the most important NYS issue in a recent well devised poll.
- 53% of 8th graders failed the NYS English Language Arts test,
- 22% in the Big 4 (Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers) drop out. 10% statewide. 36% do not complete high school in 4 years
- Nationally the real costs of under educating youth is \$253.5 billion
- A skilled workforce will provide money for senior citizen's retirement.
- Not having a high school diploma shortens your life by nine years on average
- The state has cut the income tax rate paid by the wealthiest New Yorkers by more than 50% in the last 25 years.

The students in NYS deserve an education that will prepare them to meet the challenges of our world. Bills need to be passed to increase state aid to our schools to improve student performance. NYS Senate and Assembly members are being elected this November. Write, call, e-mail or visit. Let them know, that as a voter and an AAUW member you want School Funding Reform now. Ask candidates to support bills that will

comprehensively revise the school aid formulas, like the Oppenheimer Bill S7112, which will provide a sound basic education for all.