



2018 SCAP Advocacy Agenda

K- 12 Education

SCAP's 2015 Community Needs Assessment highlighted the increase in the number of economically disadvantaged students in every school district except the Schenectady City School District.

- SCSD continues to be highest in the County, at 79%.
- The percent of economically disadvantaged students in the Duanesburg Central School District increased by over 10% (17% to 28%)
- The percent of economically disadvantaged students in the Rotterdam-Mohonasen Central School District increased by 7% (34% to 41%).
- State support as a percentage of total budget has declined since 2011. According to the *Fiscal Policy Institute*, "inadequate state aid not only hampers the ability of disadvantaged students to catch up, it also puts pressure on local property taxes as school districts try to compensate for the unmet commitment of state funds. This reinforces inequities, as districts with high concentrations of low-income families find it hard to raise funding needed for their schools and for other anti-poverty programs that can address the challenges their students face".

Support the Fiscal Policy Institute's recommendations.

- Support the Executive Budget proposal of a 3% increase over last year.
- Recognize it is nowhere near the required amount to meet the State obligation under the Campaign for Fiscal Equity which seeks to create parity in school funding for districts with higher needs students. Meeting the state's obligations would dramatically improve equity in funding for Schenectady City School District, and potentially provide local tax relief.

<http://fiscalfpolicy.org/category/topics/economic-security-opportunity/sub-topics/elementary-and-secondary-education>

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There are over 2.8 million NY residents living in poverty or 15.7%. In Schenectady County the rate is 12.6% and in the City of Schenectady it is 22%. The Child Poverty Rate in Schenectady County is 20.9% and in the City of Schenectady it is 40.1%.