

BRENTWOOD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION IMPACT

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Coalition calls on Albany to extend 'Millionaire's Tax'

As demonstrators in New York City and worldwide protest income inequality and corporate greed, activists recently gathered inside the State Capitol to urge lawmakers to extend a "millionaire's tax" on New York's wealthiest residents.

"The income gap in New York State and New York City is horrendous," said NYSUT Executive Vice President Andrew Pallotta. "At a time when the poor and middle class are suffering, it almost seems like a joke that we would give millionaires and billionaires a tax break on New Year's Eve."

The state's surcharge on its wealthiest residents - passed two years ago to offset New York's budget problems - is set to expire Dec. 31. At stake is \$5 billion in revenue at a time when vital public services, including education and health care, have sustained billions of dollars in damaging budget cuts.

Nikki Jones of the Alliance for Quality Education said to let the millionaire's tax expire when students are seeing critical academic programs slashed and thousands of teachers have been laid off "sends the wrong message about our priorities."

While Democratic Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver said he supports extending the tax, Republican Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos has expressed his opposition.

Still, proponents of the progressive income-tax plan were encouraged by the findings of a Siena Research Institute Poll released Monday showing 72 percent of state voters favor increasing taxes on those making more than a million dollars. Particularly important, activists said, was that while the poll showed 83 percent of Democrats and 70 percent of independents are in favor of the tax, the majority of Republican voters - at 55 percent - also support the surcharge.

Pointing to the Occupy Wall Street movement, Ron Deutsch of New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness said the Siena poll reflects what is happening in America.

"The general mood and tenor of the public has changed," he said. "People are fed up with the corporate greed and the income inequality, and they want change."

You can help! Go to www.nysut.org and click on the yellow **Take Action** box located on the bottom right-hand corner and send letters to the Governor, your Assembly member, and State Senators encouraging them to extend the millionaire's tax.

Setting the Record Straight on Student Performance

Gov. Cuomo's repetitious sound bite that New York spends "more money on education than any state in the nation ... (but is) number 34 in terms of results" cherry-picks a single statistic from the 2007 Census report and attempts to serve it up as an indictment of public education in the Empire State. The figure recently cited by the governor actually refers to the number of New Yorkers over age 25 who had at least a high school diploma in the year 2007. Put another way, it provides a snapshot only of the parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents of today's students, all of whom went to school in a very different time.

The reality is that New York "is actually a perennial top-ranking state" in education, according to Christopher Swanson, Vice President for Editorial Projects for Education Week, the respected independent watchdog publication. In its recently released 2011 "Quality Counts" guide, Education Week ranked New York second in the nation in a comprehensive analysis of policy and performance.

Know the Facts

- New York State is second in the nation on the full complement of wide-ranging, multiple measures of education policy and performance.
- More New York State students are taking and succeeding on Advanced Placement Exams than any time in history.
- More Black and Latino students are taking AP Exams with better results than ever before.
- New York State is fourth in the nation in improving graduation rates.
- Gaps between poor and non-poor students on national NAEP math and reading tests have closed faster than any other state in the nation.

Know Your BTA Contract

Brentwood Teachers Association members who travel between schools should familiarize themselves with **Article 7** entitled Teacher Assignments.

Article 7, C., states:

In arranging schedules for teachers who are assigned to more than one (1) school, an effort shall be made to limit the amount of inter-school travel. Such teachers shall be notified of any changes in their schedules as soon as practicable. Elementary teachers will be given a minimum of thirty (30) minutes travel time. Teachers who are assigned to more than one (1) school per day shall receive the following compensation:

A rate per mile as determined by the **IRS deductible mileage allowance** in effect as of the first working day of each school year. For the 2011-2012 school year, the **rate** shall be **\$0.555 per mile**.

It is important that all teachers who are required to travel between buildings keep a log of mileage traveled. Complete a mileage reimbursement form, which can be found in your front office, and submit to the accounts payable office at the month's end. Be sure to keep a copy of any forms submitted for your own records.

Goods and Services

~1.5 Hofstra Credits for Sale~
Call Christine @ 631-255-4987.

~3 C.W. Post/LIU Credits for Sale~
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