

JAN 17, 2019

GOVERNOR CUOMO'S PROPOSED BUDGET INCLUDES SOME BOOSTS IN EDUCATION AID TO LOCAL DISTRICTS. THE BIGGEST WINNERS ARE SMALLER SUBURBAN DISTRICTS. THAT INCLUDES DOUBLE DIGIT INCREASES FOR REMSEN, WESTMORELAND, AND A WHOPPING FOURTEEN PERCENT HIKE FOR SAUQUOIT VALLEY. UTICA GETS A MODEST TWO PERCENT INCREASE UP TO 147 MILLION DOLLARS, WHILE ROME'S STATE AID WAS ACTUALLY CUT BY TWO PERCENT. FINAL FIGURES WILL BE HAMMERED OUT BY LAWMAKERS AS THE BUDGET PROGRESSES THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE.

Feb 15, 2019

SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS NEW YORK ARE SEEING THEIR ENROLLMENTS PLUNGE, EVEN AS UTICA'S CONTINUES TO CLIMB. THAT'S ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM THE EMPIRE CENTER. THE STUDY FOUND THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ACROSS THE STATE HAS FALLEN TO LOWS NOT SEEN SINCE THE 1970S. EXPERTS SAY THAT'S A SYMPTOM OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LEAVING NEW YORK. BUT UTICA IS ONE PLACE THE TREND IS MOVING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, WITH OFFICIALS HARD PRESSED TO KEEP UP WITH THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE CHILDREN ENTERING THE DISTRICT.

Feb 20, 2019

20-THOUSAND DOLLARS. THAT'S THE MEDIAN AMOUNT OF MONEY SPENT ON EACH STUDENT IN THE UTICA ROME AREA ACCORDING TO A NEW REPORT FROM THE STATE COMPTROLLER. THE STUDY LOOKED AT EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES ACROSS THE STATE AND FOUND SPENDING STEADILY RISING EVEN AS MANY SCHOOL DISTRICTS SAW THEIR ENROLLMENTS FALL. THE REGION ALSO HAD ONE OF THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCHES, WITH 53 PERCENT OF THE STUDENT BODY FALLING UNDER THE INCOME THRESHOLDS.

Feb 25, 2019

SCHOOLS SHOULD BE ABLE TO REFUSE BEING A POLLING LOCATION. THAT'S ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS WITH THE STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS. THEY SAY THEY'RE RESPONDING TO THE CONCERNS OF PARENTS ABOUT WHO'S ALLOWED TO ENTERED A SCHOOL BUILDING ON ELECTION DAY. AS OF LAST YEAR THAT INCLUDES THOUSANDS OF SEX OFFENDERS PARDONED BY THE CUOMO ADMINISTRATION. UNDER CURRENT LAW ONLY THE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS HAS ANY SAY ON IF A SCHOOL IS USED FOR VOTING.

Mar 8, 2019

FOUR BILLION DOLLARS. THAT'S WHAT ADVOCATES SAY THE STATE NEEDS TO INVEST IN EDUCATION TO MAKE UP FOR FUNDING SHORTFALLS. WITH JUST A MONTH TO GO BEFORE THE

PASSAGE OF THIS YEAR'S BUDGET THEY'RE PRESSURING THE LEGISLATURE TO SPEND THE EXTRA MONEY. AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK THEY'RE PLANNING ON TAKING THE STATE TO COURT TO GET THE CASH. GOVERNOR CUOMO HAS RESISTED CALLS FOR MORE SPENDING, SAYING NEW YORK IS ALREADY LAYING OUT MORE PER STUDENT THAN ANY OTHER STATE IN THE NATION.

Mar 21, 2019

RESIDENTS WILL VOTE ON SCHOOL BUDGETS AND SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES ACROSS THE AREA TODAY. THE ANNUAL TRIP TO THE POLLS ISN'T BEING DRIVEN BY MUCH CONTROVERSY THIS YEAR. THE STATE CAP ON PROPERTY TAX INCREASES MEANS ONLY MINOR HIKES FOR MOST SCHOOL BUDGETS. AND SOME ARE ACTUALLY SEEING SMALL DECREASES IN THE TAX LEVY. POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM NOON TO NINE TONIGHT. CHECK YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S WEBSITE FOR VOTING LOCATIONS.

Mar 28, 2019

WHAT IF THEY GAVE A TEST AND NOBODY CAME? THAT'S THE SITUATION FACING EDUCATORS AS THEY GET READY TO LAUNCH ANOTHER ROUND OF MANDATED STATE TESTING. PARENTS ARE ONCE AGAIN REFUSING TO LET THEIR CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN RESPONSE TO WHAT THEY SEE AS UNFAIR TESTING STANDARDS IMPOSED BY THE STATE. LAST YEAR OVER TWENTY PERCENT OF STUDENTS ACROSS THE STATE REFUSED TO TAKE THE EXAM, AND SOME LOCAL DISTRICTS SAW PARTICIPATION RATES AS LOW AS FORTY PERCENT. THE THREE DAY ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST GETS UNDERWAY NEXT WEEK.