

A blue ballpoint pen is positioned diagonally across the frame, pointing towards the bottom right. It rests on a document featuring a bar chart with several blue bars of varying heights. The background is a light blue-grey color with a subtle grid pattern.

# Superintendent's Report

November 2024

# Mascot Selection Process

*Syosset Central School District*



# Mascot Selection

## Fall/Winter 2024



### Create mascot selection committee

Invite community members to join

- Students, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, residents

No limit to number of members on the committee



### Committee meets to prepare a survey to share with the community



### Conduct Thought Exchange community survey (*anonymous*)

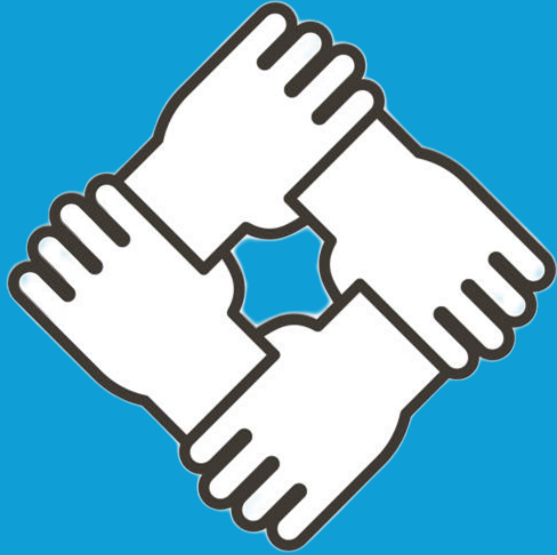
Identify values that might be reflected in a new mascot

Gather ideas for a new mascot

## Winter/Spring 2025

- **Committee reviews survey results using established rubric and identifies list of options that best meet the criteria**
  - Survey results to be made public
- **Public comment period on proposed mascot options**
- **Committee narrows options based on public feedback and creates a process by which the community can vote on final options**
- **Spring 2025 - mascot launch**

# How to participate



*This process will provide multiple opportunities for every member of the Syosset community to offer their input into the selection of a new mascot.*

- Mascot Selection Committee
- Participation in community surveys

Both of these opportunities will be posted on our District website and sent via e-mail.

If you are not currently on our District e-mail list, sign up on our website:

*Community > Sign up to receive District communications*

**Follow the process on social media:**



***Syosset Central School District***



***@SyoStrong***

# Regionalization Concerns

Developments and Next Steps

# State Government Primer

## Regulations vs. Statutes

- Statutes require approval by Assembly, Senate and Governor
- Regulations require approval by agency governing body
- Regulations cannot supersede statute

## Emergency vs. Ordinary Regulations

- Emergency can take effect immediately.
- Both require a comment period before permanent adoption.

## The Powers and Duties of School Boards are contained in statute, they cannot be removed by regulation

- [§1709](#) – Union Free School Districts (example: Jericho)
- [§1804](#) – Central School Districts (ex: Syosset)

# NYSED Regionalization Initiative

## No new authority for District Superintendent (BOCES Superintendent)

Already in law: [§2216.14](#)

- *“To make such investigations and to make such reports to the commissioner of education upon any matter or act as said commissioner shall from time to time request.”*

## No forced mergers

Controlled by law [§2218 Ed.L.](#) (not regulation)

- Requires both BOEs to vote in favor, and...
- Requires 2 affirmative public votes by each affected community (§2218.3.d)

## No required participation

“Upon completion of the regional plan, school districts need only pursue implementation of activities they have agreed or consented to for their local context in the final plan.”

-- [NYSED FAQ](#)



# Today's Regents Meeting in Albany

- Regent Roger Tilles (Long Island) asked for amendments to the Regulation that would clarify that no district would be required to participate against their will.
  - NYSED Staff Attorney Daniel Morton Bentley said, “I expect the Department (NYSED) will make a recommendation on that next month.” (i.e. December meeting)
  - No Regents spoke in opposition to Regent Tilles’ suggestion.
- Current Emergency Regulation cannot be permanently adopted until the January Board of Regents meeting.



# Regionalization Recommendations

- Regents should refine regulatory language to be consistent with their messaging:
    - Remove language implying “compel”
    - Make opt-out provision explicit in the regulation
  - Regents should clarify:
    - Criteria for “approval” of regional plans
  - Plans should highlight
    - Need for State to pay for special education services until age 22
    - Need for State to approve more preschool special education seats
    - Need for State to develop more in-patient & out-patient mental health supports for students
- 
- Our “red line”?
    - No loss of local control
    - No compulsory participation in regional plans

# Foundation Aid Concerns

Proposal Expected 12/1/24

# A Brief History of Foundation Aid

## Created as a result of CFE lawsuit (2007)

- But was never fully funded until 2023 – “GEA” Gap Elimination Adjustment was enacted

## In 2023 The Governor settles NYSER lawsuit

- [Press Release](#) – Governor Hochul said:
  - “This settlement closes a long chapter of inequity, and demonstrates my administration's commitment to wiping the slate clean and fully funding public education using a responsive model that takes districts' unique needs into account. Actions are more important than words, and while the settlement is the first step, we're following through with funding in the state's budget.”

## Governor proposes changing it in 2024

- [News 12](#) – “44 LI school districts would see decreased state funding”

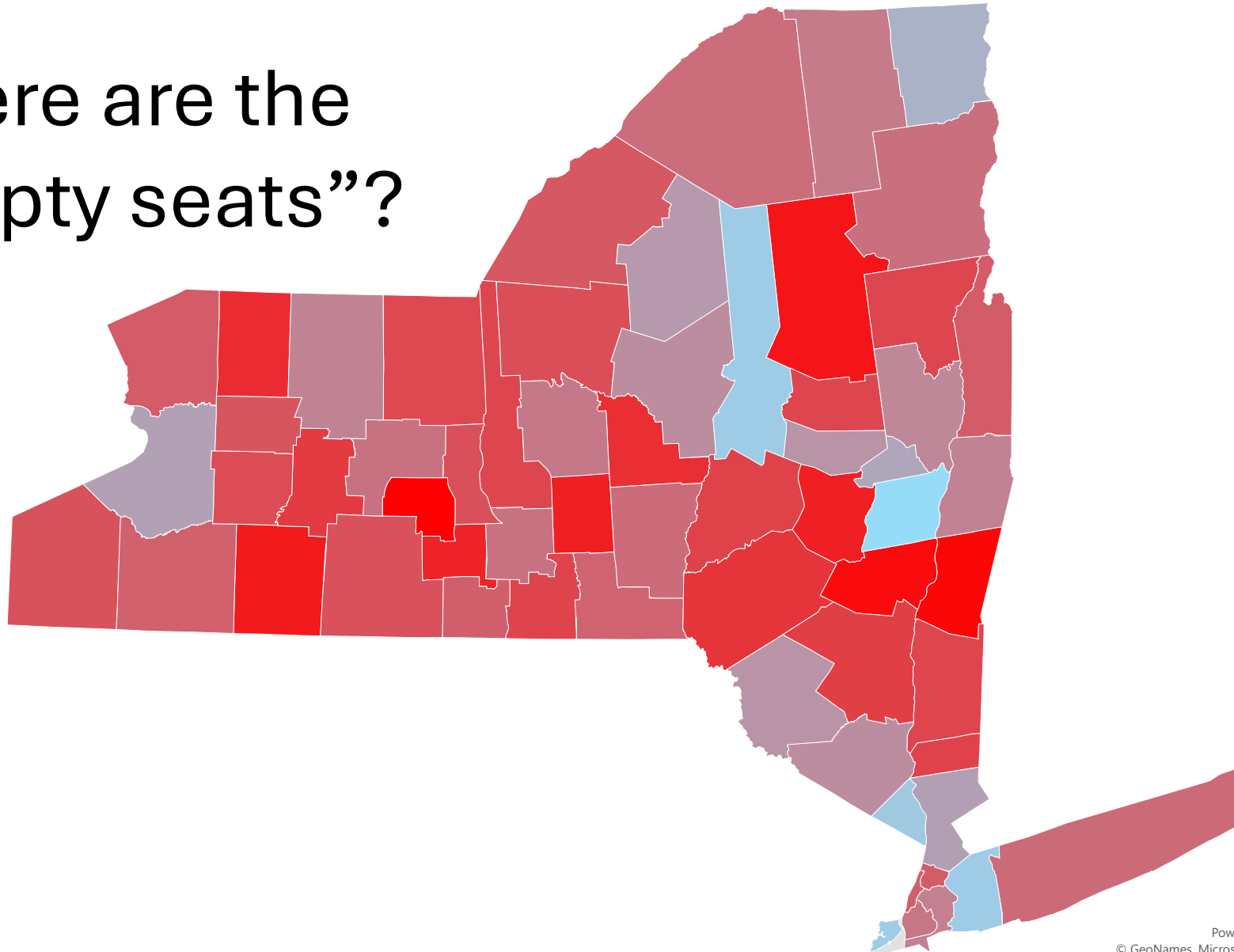
# January 2024 – Governor Proposes School Funding Cuts

## December 2024 – Rockefeller Institute Reports

- 2024-25 Executive Budget Proposal
  - Proposed Cut Foundation Aid for Syosset of \$200,000 (about 1%)
  - Proposed Cut for Nassau of \$55.2 Million or 4.08%.
  - Proposed using 8-year average for inflation/CPI
- Legislature makes restorations to Executive Budget
  - Increased school funding by \$1.3 billion to \$24.9 billion (2024-25 State budget)
  - Commissions [Rockefeller Institute to Recommend Changes](#) to Foundation Aid
    - Formula currently uses [outdated data and statistics](#)
      - “Student poverty rates in each school district are currently measured based on data from the 2000 US Census”
      - “Labor costs in the formula are based on information from 2007.”
- [Governor Hochul](#) signals intent to propose more cuts in 2025:
  - Hochul: “In the long-term, it just doesn’t make sense to keep paying for **empty seats** in classrooms.” 4/16/24
- The next Executive Budget proposal (for 2025-26 school year) will be released at the end of January 2025
  - Where are the “empty seats”???

## Enrollment Change by County 2016 to 2023

Where are the  
“empty seats”?



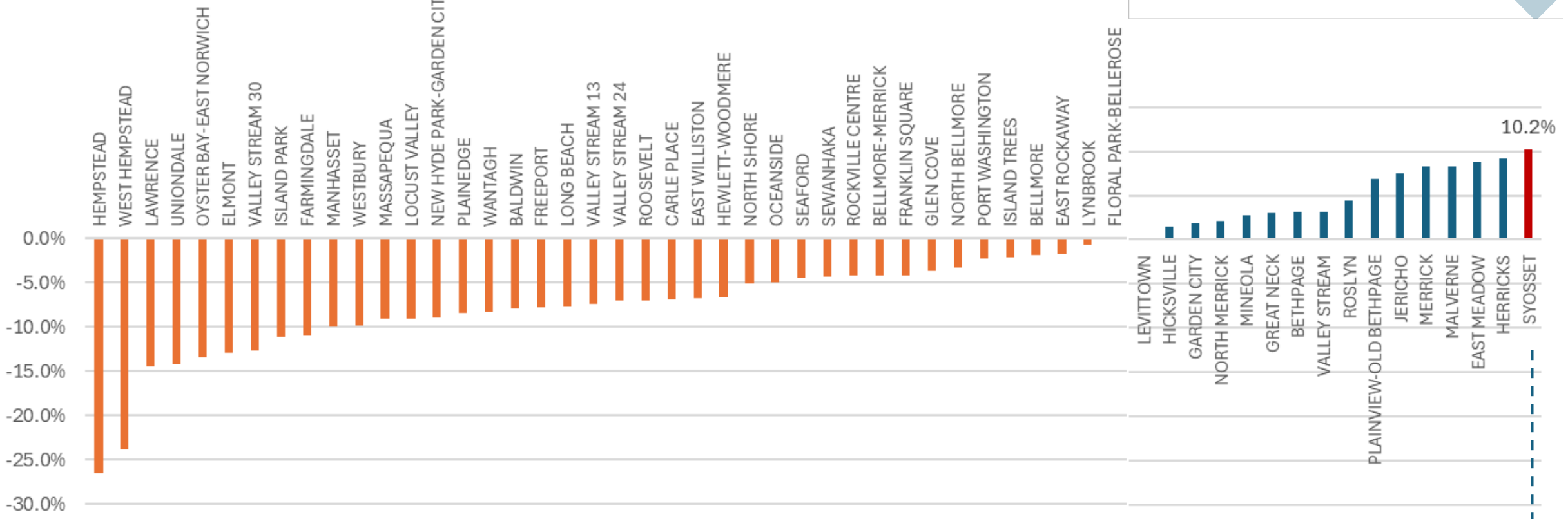
Enrollment Change

-1.3%

-19.1%

Every county in  
New York has lost  
enrollment; many  
by almost 20%.

# Nassau Enrollment Change 2016-2023



Syosset has grown more than 10% since 2016.

# Syosset's Situation



## By every measure, we should earn more State Aid:

Enrollment is up **10.2%** since 2016;

Student poverty is up from **6%** in 2015-16 to **16%** in 2023-24;

The numbers of English Language Learners, (who are entitled to extra support) has grown from **127** in 2015-16 to **229** in 2023-24

Our “wealth factor” has dropped (from **1.974** in 2015-16 to **1.661** in 2024-25)



## Even with these challenges, our student success is up:

Niche.com ranking increased from **86<sup>th</sup>** (2016) to **5<sup>th</sup>** (2024) in the USA.

AP scores (3+) up from **74%** (2016) to **90%** (2024)

AP exams up from **2,629** (2016) to **3,393** (2024)

**99%** Graduation Rate (2024)

**87%** Advanced Regents Diploma (2024)



# How Bad is the State's Financial Position?

## ... Apparently Quite Strong



Local [Sales Tax Collections Up 1.4%](#) in Third Quarter October 30, 2024



NYS OSC: “Wall Street’s \$23.2 billion in pretax profits for the first half of 2024 were a dramatic 79.3% increase over the same period last year.”

“This year has been very strong so far and profits may continue their upward trajectory, to exceed 2023 levels and boost State and City tax revenues.” [Comptroller DiNapoli said.](#)

# What Should We Do Next?

- Focus closely on [Rockefeller Institute Foundation Aid Study](#)
  - (Expected Dec. 1)
- Write to Governor in advance of Executive Budget Proposal
  - (Expected late January 2025)
- Write to State legislators
  - (Final budget expected April 2025)

