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Local schools set to receive more aid in state budget

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Students from Union-Endicott walk outside of the school on Main Street in Endicott. / File Photo

Written by **Meghin Delaney** @PSBMeghinD

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While every Broome-Tioga BOCES district would see an increase in state aid for the 2013-14 year, according to updated school aid runs, Union-Endicott is set to receive a special one-time grant for \$3.1 million in addition to its aid.

After the Huron campus in Endicott was reassessed last summer, the U-E school district lost almost 10 percent of its tax base. The reassessment caused district officials, who had already planned a budget for that school year, to freeze spending.

The district was awarded additional assistance to cover the shortfall caused by the property reassessment. The Senate will provide \$2.4 million, and the Assembly has earmarked another \$700,000 for the district.

This is a comparison of state aid the Broome-Tioga BOCES districts received in 2012-13, compared with the figure they would receive in 2013-14 if the Assembly passes the budget and Gov. Andrew Cuomo signs it.

“Union-Endicott School District taxpayers were forced to make up the recent tax revenue losses,” said state Sen. Thomas W.

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 Owego-Apalachin: \$16.9 million to \$17.5 million
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 Union-Endicott: \$28.8 million to \$31.4 million
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 Whitney Point: \$21 million to \$22.9 million
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Libous, R-Binghamton. “I worked to include special aid in the budget to help ease the transition from losing nearly 10 percent of U-E property tax base — without placing the burden on taxpayers.”

Early Wednesday morning, the state Senate approved a \$135 billion budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which outlines the school aid. It is expected that the Assembly will approve the budget on Thursday.

Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, D-Endwell, said she worked with Libous to come up with the additional aid to the Broome County school district.

“We were able to successfully argue that due to this loss, U-E qualified for additional funding for districts facing an extraordinary change in the taxable property valuation,” Lupardo said.

U-E officials said they’re appreciative, but do not want to comment until the budget is finalized. The district is one of four in the state set to receive this type of grant.

Meanwhile, Vestal is set to receive \$21.9 million in aid, an increase of \$1 million from last year. It’s \$1.2 million more than what Cuomo proposed in January.

Binghamton would receive \$59.5 million in aid, an increase of \$7.8 million from last year. It’s \$939,000 more than the January proposal.

After going over the proposed figures, Owego-Apalachin superintendent Bill Russell said he thinks things are on the upswing after a “steady downward spiral in the past several years.”

O-A would get \$18.1 million, an increase of \$1.8 million from last year, and \$600,000 more than the proposal earlier this year.

Maine-Endwell, currently dealing with a \$3.8 million budget deficit, is set to gain \$478,000 in aid from what Cuomo proposed in January. The district would receive \$21.2 million in aid, an increase of \$1.4 million from last year.

Superintendent Jason Van Fossen is expected to address the anticipated increase at the district’s budget workshop on Thursday.

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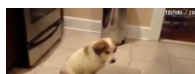
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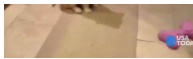


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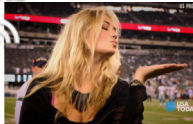
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3.71	Kwik Fill 3408 E Main St & Kent St	Endwell	Mar 27, 11:29 PM
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