

My name is Matthew Tedeschi, I am currently the President of BKW School Board and VP of CAP Region BOCES Board of Education

I have intentionally kept this simple to stay within my time limits. My 3 points are on equity, timing and taxability

- 1- First and probably the most important is that students across this state should have the same opportunities to a FULL and Rigorous academic program. There are many districts like BKW that have invested wisely and strategically into giving our students access to an academic program that will allow them to compete with others across the region, state and country. Whatever the outcome of this commission , attention should be payed to the districts who are seeing the improved academic growth in their students because of these investments and care should be given to not reduce funding as this will harm the academic progress. The proposed aid changes would have forced a district like ours to have cut many of programs that have been created and we would go backwards with limited academic options for our students
  
- 2- There should be a lot of thought about how these changes in aid are rolled out. I believe that there should be a phased in approach. Give communities across this state time to plan and prepare for the changes. Without this, what I mentioned earlier becomes a reality . For a district like BKW, who was facing an aid reduction of \$600k this year and probably next year, that would have meant a 6% increase in taxes to our community this year and probably next as well.
  
- 3- Lastly there should be serious discussion regarding the current tax cap. Districts who have managed their finances appropriately who have not 1- over taxed their community and 2- are not sitting large reserves, should be exempt from the 60%+1 requirement to pass a budget that exceeds the cap.

IN conclusion we need a strategic approach, not a broad brush approach as there are many factors that are needed to be considered. The complexities of todays environment are more than they have ever been and the solution needs to consider the complexities and accommodate appropriately.

