

12 - EDUCATION

STATE SUPERVISION AND FUNDING

New York State's first Education Act of 1812 divided the state into school districts. Minimum standards for education throughout the State are set by the Legislature through education law, together with both the rules of the state's 13-member Board of Regents (the central authority for all levels of education from preschool through university) and the regulations of the Commissioner of Education. Local school districts may further improve or expand their curricula.

In the early 19th century, literally every one-room school comprised a school district. The state continuously has encouraged consolidation of smaller, uneconomical districts into larger ones.

The state provides financial assistance to public school districts, sharing their operating costs up to a ceiling that is set by the State Legislature. The value of real estate property in the local district and the average number of pupils attending its schools determines the state's share of educational costs for each district, as computed by a set of formulas adopted by the State Legislature. These formulas fall into three major categories. The first category, unrestricted aid, is based on such factors as the district's number of pupils, the district's fiscal capacity (i.e., the district's real-estate tax base per pupil and the district's income per pupil compared to a statewide average), and the district's local tax effort.

The second category, pupil-based aid, is based on characteristics of the district's pupils, as follows: The state provides additional aid to support educational activities for pupils with disabilities, gifted and talented pupils, and pupils with limited English proficiency. The state also provides additional aid to districts with high percentages of pupils whose family incomes are below an established poverty line.

The third and final category, expenditure-based aid, is based on a district's building, transportation, and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES—see explanation following) expenditures. The state reimburses each district for a portion of these expenditures. The rate of reimbursement from the state varies with the district's wealth, i.e., the poorer the school district, the higher the rate of state reimbursement. Each year the State Legislature determines how much and in what manner state aid will be distributed. The difference between federal and state aid and a local district's budget is made up by the local districts through adjustment of the property tax rate.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In 2008-2009 there were 69 school districts in Suffolk County with varying school populations. School districts are of three types: Common School Districts, empowered to operate only a kindergarten through 8th grade program; Union Free School Districts (UFSDs), empowered to operate a kindergarten through 12th grade program; and Central School Districts (CSDs), formed by a merger of two or more districts. Each school district is an independent unit of government, the boundaries of which do not necessarily correspond with those of any other political entity. School districts must follow the requirements of the state's education laws, but otherwise are autonomous in fiscal matters.

Responsibility on the local level for the educational program lies with the school board, whose members (three to nine) are elected by district voters, serve without pay, but are reimbursed for

expenses. They act as a liaison between the community and the school administration. In addition, the school board annually prepares a school budget, which must include programs mandated by the state, and which is submitted to school district voters for adoption. The cost of local education is financed through property taxes, state aid and some federal assistance. Towns collect the school taxes for each district.

Those school districts of Suffolk County which are directed by a district principal are grouped into two supervisory districts: Supervisory District I has an office in Patchogue, and SD II in Dix Hills. The district superintendent of each of these districts is the local representative of the State Commissioner of Education. The remaining school districts of the county are village superintendencies and deal directly with the state Education Department instead of through supervisory districts. Table 12.1 lists the school districts, which in 2008-2009, had a total of 256,927 students enrolled.

**TABLE 12.1
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Eastern Suffolk BOCES I
School District Enrollment 2008-2009

Amaganssett UFSD	101	Mount Sinai UFSD	2605
Bayport-Blue Point UFSD	2520	New Suffolk Common SD	9
Bay Shore UFSD	5741	Oysterponds UFSD	104
Brentwood UFSD	16304	Patchogue-Medford UFSD	8617
Bridgehampton UFSD	141	Port Jefferson UFSD	1337
Brookhaven-Comsewogue UFSD	3921	Quogue UFSD	115
Center Moriches UFSD	1577	Remsenburg-Speonk UFSD	186
Central Islip UFSD	6422	Riverhead CSD	4712
Connetquot CSD	6894	Rocky Point UFSD	3519
East Hampton UFSD	1819	Sachem CSD	15014
East Islip UFSD	4991	Sagaponack Common SD	18
East Moriches UFSD	715	Sag Harbor UFSD	877
Eastport-South Manor CSD	3875	Sayville UFSD	3399
East Quogue UFSD	457	Shelter Island UFSD	276
Fire Island UFSD	37	Shoreham-Wading River CSD	2766
Fisher's Island UFSD	64	South Country CSD	4563
Greenport UFSD	621	Southampton UFSD	1607
Hampton Bays UFSD	1827	Southold UFSD	958
Hauppauge UFSD	4062	Springs UFSD	630
Islip UFSD	3476	Three Village CSD	7737
Little Flower UFSD	97	Tuckahoe Common SD	363
Longwood CSD	9171	Wainscott Common SD	19
Mattituck-Cutchogue UFSD	1505	Westhampton Beach UFSD	1799
Middle Country CSD	10979	West Islip UFSD	5520
Miller Place UFSD	3111	William Floyd UFSD	9483
Montauk UFSD	316	Total	166,977

Western Suffolk BOCES II
School District Enrollment 2008-2009

Amityville UFSD	2737	Huntington UFSD	4384
Babylon UFSD	1855	Kings Park CSD	4057
Cold Spring Harbor CSD	2065	Lindenhurst UFSD	6926
Commack UFSD	7830	North Babylon UFSD	4839
Copiague UFSD	4592	Northport-E. Northport UFSD	6410
Deer Park UFSD	4457	Smithtown CSD	10844
Elwood UFSD	2613	South Huntington UFSD	5976
Half Hollow Hills CSD	10126	West Babylon UFSD	4519
Harborfields CSD	3686	Wyandanch UFSD	2034
		Total	89,950

Common SD Common School District
 UFSD Union Free School District
 CSD Central School District

CHARTER SCHOOLS

In addition to public school districts, there are charter schools, which were permitted, starting in 1998. According to their literature, they are “tuition-free public schools created by parents, educators and community leaders that operate under a five-year contract, or ‘charter.’ ” These schools, open to all students, are monitored by their ‘authorizer’ and the Board of Regents. Those with power to create (authorize) charter schools are the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York, the Board of Regents, or local boards of education. As of 2008 there were two charter schools in Suffolk County: The Child Development Center of the Hamptons and the Riverhead Charter School.

Child Development Center of the Hamptons Charter School
 110 Stephen Hands Path, Wainscott, NY 11975 (631) 324-0207
<http://www.cdch.org>

Riverhead Charter School
 3685 Middle Country Road, Calverton, NY 11933 (631) 369-5252
<http://www.riverheadcharterschool.org>

BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

The Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) was established by the New York State Legislature in 1948 for the purpose of providing shared education services for all of the school districts located within a supervisory district, whether they are village superintendencies or district principalships. The boards of education of the component districts of a BOCES unit elect a board consisting of five to nine members. This BOCES board is responsible for selecting a chief executive officer who also serves as the district superintendent. The selection of a district superintendent must be approved by the State Commissioner of Education. Activities carried on by BOCES districts are financed primarily by the local districts. Local districts receive state aid to cover a portion of their BOCES expenses. Since a 1993 consolidation, Eastern Suffolk BOCES serves fifty one (51) school districts, and Western Suffolk BOCES serves eighteen (18) school districts.

A BOCES is formed by the Commissioner at the request of the school boards in one or more supervisory districts. The BOCES is headed by the district superintendent; school board representatives collectively elect BOCES members and approve the BOCES budget; and the Education Department approves BOCES service contracts. Concern that this structure insulates a BOCES from public scrutiny prompted legislation requiring the Commissioner to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature on BOCES finances and pupil performance. In the early years, the typical BOCES service was traveling teachers for specialized subjects. After 1967, BOCES were authorized to own and operate their own facilities, and BOCES now offer vocational and special education programs as well as many administrative services for member districts.

Some of the services provided on a regional basis by BOCES are 1) administration and management of services; 2) occupational education; 3) pupil personnel services such as guidance and psychological services; 4) special educational programs for the mentally and physically challenged; 5) various cultural programs; and 6) itinerant teacher services to small districts. In addition, each of the BOCES supervisory districts has its own special purposes: Eastern Suffolk BOCES, <http://www.sricbores.org/>, is the instructional materials and media center for Suffolk County. It is also the center for provision of regional data processing services for the county public school districts. Western Suffolk BOCES, <http://www.wsbores.org/>, operates the Long Island Regional Instructional Computer Services (LIRICS), which is used by schools in Suffolk and Nassau Counties. Both Eastern and Western Suffolk BOCES provide educational programs and opportunities to two or more districts more economically and efficiently than one district alone can do.

Western Suffolk BOCES meets distinct needs within its 18 local school districts from the 210 square mile area that encompasses the western Suffolk County towns of Babylon, Huntington and Smithtown. Services are provided to help preschoolers, school age children and adults gain the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in the work place.

NON-PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Center operates elementary parish schools and high schools in Suffolk County. A number of parochial schools with Jewish and Protestant religious affiliations are also in operation. In addition, there are private, nonsectarian day and boarding schools at both elementary and secondary levels, schools for children with mental, emotional or physical handicaps, and pre-schools, sometimes called nursery schools. For a list of private schools see:

<http://newyork.privateschoolsreport.com/county/NY/Suffolk.html>

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education is available at many levels and at various locations throughout Suffolk County. Two 4-year colleges are part of the State University of New York (SUNY) – Farmingdale State College and Stony Brook University. The only college funded by Suffolk County is the Suffolk County Community College (also a SUNY school). Contact the college or university for catalogs listing course offerings.

Adelphi University Hauppauge Center 55 Kennedy Drive, Hauppauge, NY 11788,
(631) 300-4350 <http://www.adelphi.edu/hauppauge>

Briarcliffe: The College for Business, Patchogue Campus 225 W. Main St., Patchogue, NY 11772, (631) 654-5300 <http://www.bcl.edu>

Dowling College Idlehour Blvd., Oakdale, NY 11769 (631) 244-3000, **Brookhaven Campus** 1300 William Floyd Parkway, Shirley, NY 11967, **Melville Center** 145 Pinelawn Road, Suite 350 S, Melville, NY, 11747 (631) 244-3420 <http://www.dowling.edu> .

Farmingdale State College 2350 Broadhollow Rd, Farmingdale, NY 11735-1021 (631) 420-2000 <http://www.farmingdale.edu>

Five Towns College 305 North Service Road, Dix Hills, NY 11746, (631) 424-7000 <http://www.ftc.edu>

New York Institute of Technology, Central Islip Campus P.O. Box 9029, 300 Carlton Ave., Central Islip, NY 11722-4501 (631) 348-3020 <http://www.nyit.edu>

Polytechnic University Long Island Campus 105 Maxess Road, Melville, NY 11747 (631) 755-4300 <http://www.poly.edu/li/>

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception 440 West Neck Road, Huntington, NY 11743, (631) 423-0499 <http://icseminary.edu>

St. John's University 500 Montauk Highway, Oakdale, NY 11769 (631) 218-7700 <http://www.stjohns.edu/campus/oakdale>

St. Joseph's College 155 West Roe Blvd., Patchogue, NY 11772 (631) 447-3200 <http://www.sjcnyc.edu>

Stony Brook University Nicolls Rd., Stony Brook, NY 11794 (631) 632-8000 **Stony Brook Southampton** 239 Montauk Hwy, Southampton, NY 11968 <http://www.sunysb.edu>

Suffolk County Community College 533 College Rd., Selden, NY 11784-2899 (631) 451-4000; **Grant Campus**, Crooked Hill Rd., Brentwood, NY 11717-1092 (631) 851-6700; **Eastern Campus**, 121 Speonk-Riverhead Rd., Riverhead NY 11901-3499 (631) 548-2500 <http://www3.sunysuffolk.edu>

Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) is the largest community college in the State University of New York (SUNY) system, enrolling 22,000 students. SCCC offers the Associate in Arts (A.A.), Associate in Science (A.S.), and Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree, as well as a variety of certificate programs. Students may choose from 69 programs of study in the areas of business; communications and the arts; computing; health, community and human services; liberal arts/university parallel; and technical, scientific and engineering studies. First 2 years of liberal arts and sciences and pre-professional programs, including curriculum emphasis in fine arts, music, drama, and engineering; also 2-year programs in many technical subjects; 1-year certificate programs offered

Touro College School of Health Sciences 1700 Union Boulevard, Bay Shore, NY 11706 (631) 665-1600, **Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center** 225 Eastview Drive, Central Islip, NY 11722, (631) 761-7009 <http://www.touro.edu>

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF SUFFOLK COUNTY

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), part of a nationwide educational program funded by Suffolk County, the State of New York and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers statewide and local programs geared to the needs of county residents as designated by volunteer boards. <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/suffolk>

CCE provides research-based educational programming in agriculture, marine science, home economics, and 4-H youth development. These programs help Suffolk County residents by increasing economic development, enhancing the environment and developing human potential. The CCE sites are in Riverhead - the Extension Education Center, the Community Nutrition Education Program, and the Horticultural Research and Extension Center; and in Yaphank – the 4-H Youth Development and Diabetes Education Program Center, and the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center.

Other sites include the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport, the Suffolk County Marine Environmental Learning Center in Southold, the Sport Fishing Education Center in Babylon, the Peconic Dunes Summer Camp in Peconic, and the Insect and Plant Disease Diagnostic Labs in Riverhead and Oakdale.