

Threats to public education

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A couple of weeks ago I wrote about my son's school and how pleased I am with the opportunities he's been getting to enhance his education through various enrichment programs.

Now, it seems, those opportunities are at risk. Given that his sister is three years behind him in school, I suddenly find myself very worried about my children's education.

As you may have read [here](#), the Brockport Central School District may be insolvent in three years. There are multiple causes for the problems it faces, including the tax cap and cuts in state aid. Over the past couple of years, Brockport has lost over 15% of its state aid. As the *Democrat and Chronicle* pointed out, "Under state aid cuts enacted by Govs. David Paterson and Andrew Cuomo, Brockport has lost \$2,218 per student.... That's more than \$55,000 per classroom of 25 students."

Compounding the problem for Brockport is the fact that it is the poorest suburban school district in Monroe County, and with low property values in the district, the tax cap may result in an inability to raise the funds necessary to continue offering all of the programs it currently offers. This is a problem that Brockport shares with many poor districts around the state.

This is more than just worrying; it is a gross injustice that jeopardizes the futures of all the children in the district. Like many parents I know, I'll be writing letters to the governor and the local delegation in Albany demanding that they address this issue.

I'll also be monitoring the impact of the budget problems the district faces. If the cuts that I fear will happen, happen, my wife and I may find ourselves packing up and moving to a more prosperous district so that our kids can get the education that they deserve.

Fortunately for us, we'd be able to afford it.

Unfortunately, many families in the Brockport district wouldn't be able to afford to move, and don't their kids deserve the best education possible, too?

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