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**CONTACT:** Robert Lowry • 518/449-1063 or 518/435-5996 (cell)  
E-mail: [boblowsy@nyscoss.org](mailto:boblowsy@nyscoss.org)

## NYS Council of School Superintendents statement on the tax cap

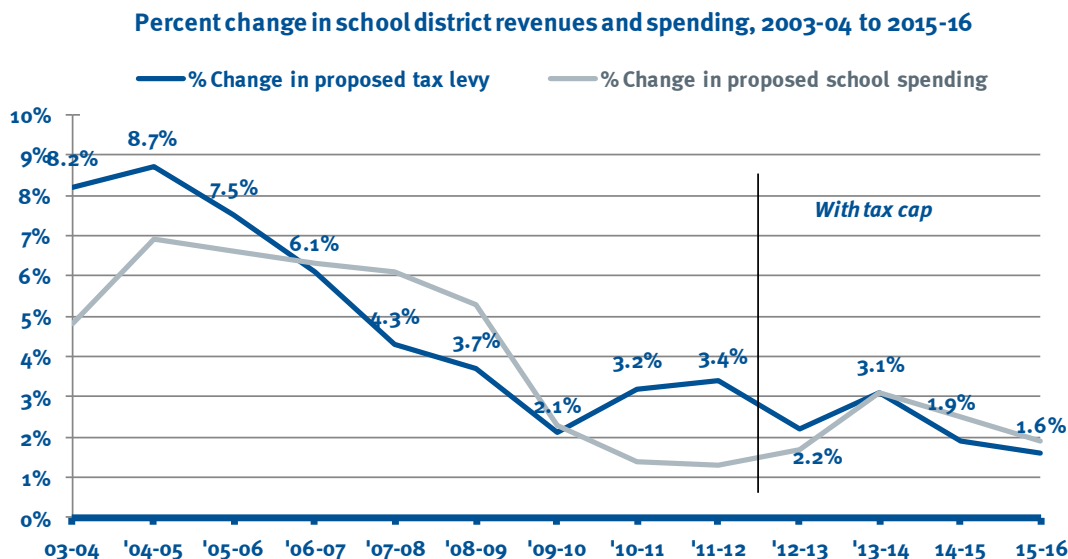
**ALBANY** – Today it became official: the property tax cap for schools next year will be close to zero. School districts will need approval from 60 percent of their voters to raise essentially any additional local revenue.

The strong state budget enacted last year gave school district leaders hope after several difficult years that financial prospects for their schools were at last turning around. Some districts were able to begin restoring programs and positions cut in the aftermath of the Great Recession. But with essentially no additional local revenue next year that progress may now be lost. To avoid that outcome, districts will need much more help through School Aid than what the proposed state budget would deliver.

The “allowable levy growth factor” which serves as the base for the tax cap calculation will be 0.12 percent due to low inflation over the past year. But in budgeting, school districts must plan for the future and official forecasts predict inflation will be about 2 percent in the year ahead.

School district leaders have worked hard to control tax and spending increases. In the budgets districts have asked voters to approve over the past four years, tax increases averaged 2.2 percent and spending increases averaged 2.3 percent.

Robert Lowry, Deputy Director



**SOURCE:** Council analysis of NYSED School Aid and Property Tax Report Card data. Big 5 city school districts not included (not directly subject to property tax cap).