

# Your Schools in *Your Hands*



**Mid-Hudson's Regional Education Advocacy Districts, known as READ, represent seven school districts dedicated to achieving fair and sufficient funding for education and relief from unnecessary state and federal mandates.**

**READ districts are forced to spend an average of 20% of the annual budget on unfunded mandates.**

We have done the research. If this were representative of the entire state of New York, it would use up about \$6 billion of a possible \$30 billion in education dollars. READ believes MUCH of this can be put to more productive use in the classroom rather than an endless stream of red tape.

**Even with this Albany stranglehold on our money, READ students are accomplishing wonderful things:**

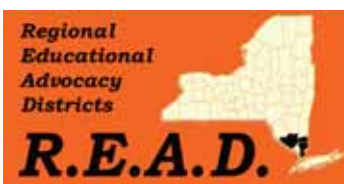
- READ schools continue to exceed the statewide averages on ALL standardized exams
- 93% Graduation rate
- 91% of students pursuing post-secondary education
- 93% Regents Diploma rate
- 52% Regents Diplomas with Advanced Designation rate
- 1,953 students enrolled in AP courses
- 99 students recognized by NYSSMA for their musical talents
- 92 Scholar-athlete teams for the current school year (spring teams not included)
- 38 students recognized by Intel and WESEF for innovative science research
- 24 students recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Organization for academic excellence
- National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, a NYS "School to Watch," and the highest SAT scoring district in Orange County.

**READ districts have responsibly controlled spending.**

This year, amidst escalating mandated costs, our districts averaged a 2% increase in budgets. This is well below all spending – the NYS average is 3.4%. We have found creative ways to save money for taxpayers... and children by sharing services, generating new revenues, pursuing grants and using reserve funds wisely.

If permitted, we could do more. But if Albany's proposed tax cap is approved without mandate relief, **more** unnecessary costs will be shifted to you, the local taxpayer, and the successes of YOUR children will be compromised, potentially sending our schools backward. The state's economy needs to be rebuilt, but there is a better way to get there. We are not the problem, but we can be part of the solution.

**READ believes control over your educational dollars should remain in your hands and the people you elect to represent your children.**



[www.read1.org](http://www.read1.org)

Brewster Central School District • Croton-Harmon Union Free School District  
Garrison Union Free School District • Haldane Central School District • Hendrick-Hudson Central School District  
Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery School District • Lakeland Central School District