



# FACT CHECK on Public Education

Governor's Statement	FACTS
<p><b>Governor Cuomo repeatedly criticizes our public schools, claiming that our state is 34<sup>th</sup> in education.</b></p> <p><b>His "fact" is not about the schools but instead about the general population.</b></p>	<p><b>According to the Governor's press office, he is citing 2008 US Census data describing educational attainment by adults over 25, which is unrelated to the performance of our K-12 schools.</b> The census report only tells about the adults who live in the state, not where they went to school. It includes data on immigrants and transplants. It does not evaluate or describe the work done in our schools.</p> <p>But according to the same census report, New York State also is ranked #10 among states for the number of citizens earning a bachelor's degree or more (31.9% compared with a national average of 27.7%). And New York ranks #4 for the number of its residents having an Advanced degree or more (13.6% compared with a national average of 10.2%).</p> <p><b>Education Week ranks New York Schools #2 in the nation</b>  <i>Education Week</i>, the highly regarded independent national education journal, recently published their annual Quality Counts report on K-12 public education nationwide. Using numerous factors such as curriculum, alignment of curriculum with state tests, and student performance on state and national assessments, the study ranked New York State second in the nation, only slightly behind first-ranked Maryland.</p> <p>Year after year, approximately 1/3 of the Intel Science Competition's 300 semi-finalists, come from New York State. No other state even comes close to that accomplishment.</p> <p>15 Monroe County high schools were cited on <i>Newsweek's</i> list of the top 6% of high schools in the nation and several others from surrounding communities made the list, too.</p>
<p>Governor Cuomo has criticized New York schools for being the most costly in the nation, with an average cost per student of \$17,173.</p>	<p><b>New York spends more per student than any other state but what is spent in your district?</b>  Averages can be deceiving. In fact the average cost per student in our state varies widely depending on the wealth or relative poverty of a district, and where in the state it is located. What districts spend per pupil ranges from as little as slightly over \$12,000 per pupil to well over \$30,000 per pupil. The average in Monroe County is \$15,607 per pupil.</p>