



Impact of the growth of the
non-public school community on the
East Ramapo Public schools

E. Ramapo Stakeholders

July 2009



Outline

- Demographic Trends
- Educational Needs, outcomes and Services
- Budget Facts and trends
- School Board Members Trend
- Conclusion



Public vs. Private Student Population Trend in East Ramapo

- 2005- About 9000 Public School students
- 2009- About 8000 Public School Students

- 2005- About 16,000 Private School students
- 2009- About 17,000 Private School students

- Most private school students live in segregated communities
- Many new immigrants are of school age but forego enrolling in public education to work as household servants or day laborers
- There has been no formal study to ascertain why public school enrollment is declining



Two increasingly different districts in the same town

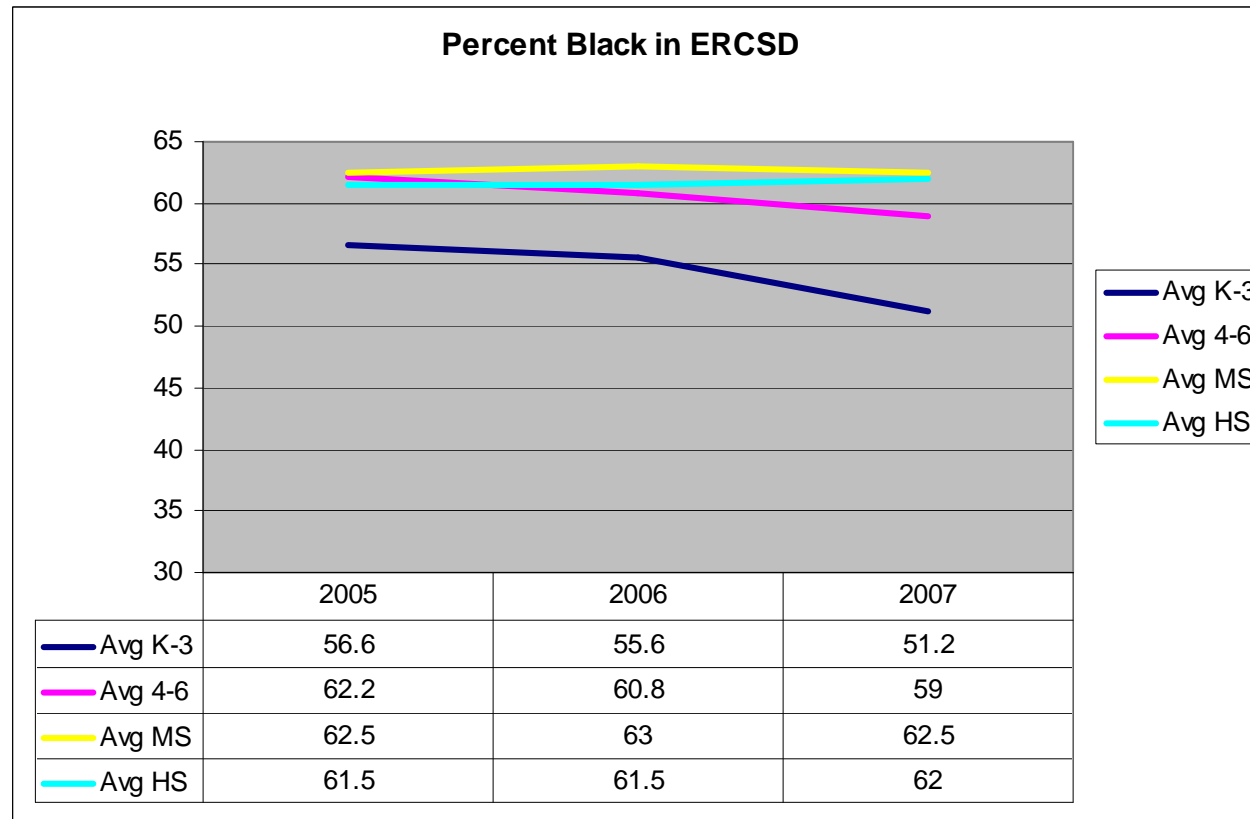
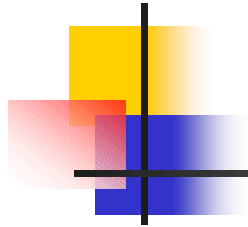
- In 1952, less than 10% of students in Ramapo school districts were people of color
- In 2007, 89% of East Ramapo students are people of color
- In 2007, 21% of Ramapo Central students are people of color



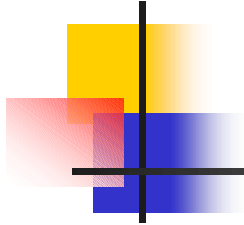
Private Schools in E. Ramapo

- 6% annual growth in number of Private School Students
- 112 non-public schools (2009)
- Average free or reduced lunch for schools serving 3 largest Hassidic populations is 94% (2005)

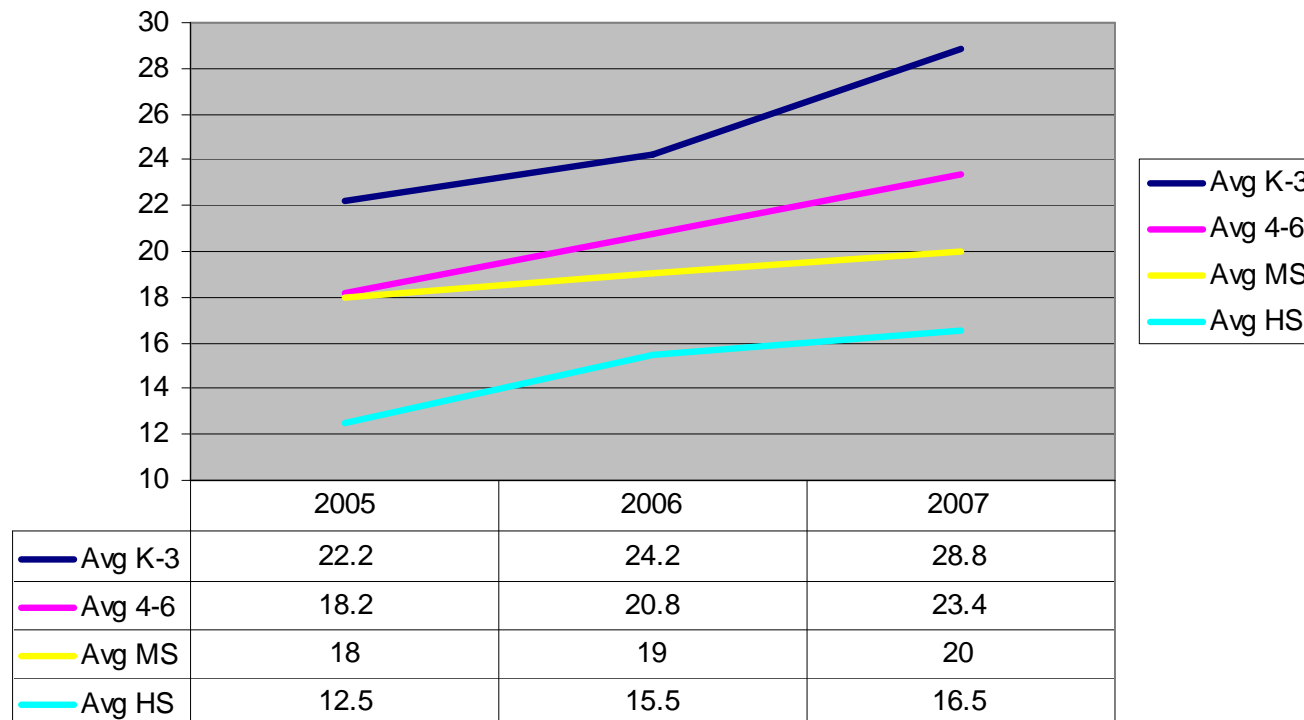
East Ramapo Population trend by ethnicity- Black



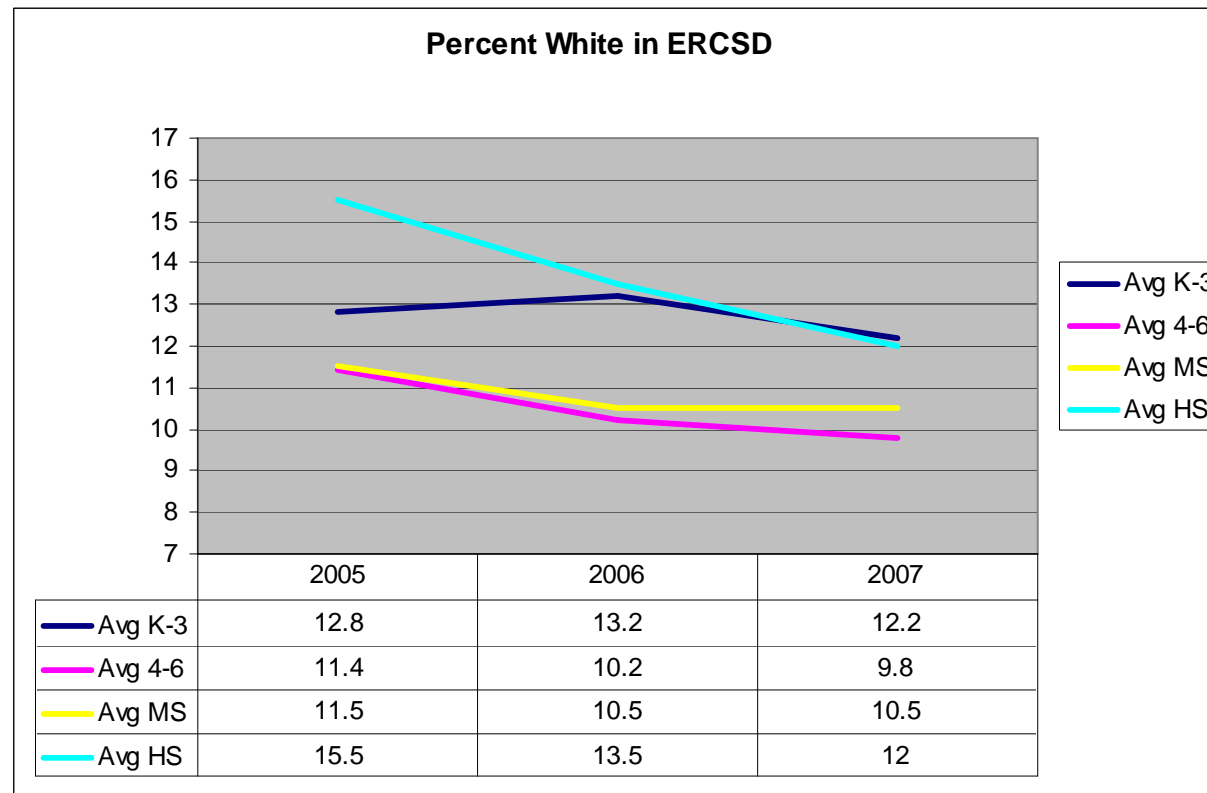
East Ramapo Population trend by ethnicity- Hispanic



Percent Hispanic in ERCSD



East Ramapo Population trend by ethnicity- White





East Ramapo Public School Population Trend by socio-economic status

- In 2005, 11% have limited English proficiency and 54 % free or reduced lunch
- In 2007 14% have limited English proficiency and 60% free or reduced lunch



Demographic Conclusion

- Users of public schools are increasingly
 - Hispanic
 - English Language Learners
 - Low income
- Users of private schools are increasingly
 - Hasidic and Orthodox Jews
 - Using public resources intended to combat poverty



Educational Needs of Public School

- E. Ramapo is performing below the State average on New York State English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments
- There is a significant achievement gap in E. Ramapo between students of different ethnicities and genders



Educational Needs of Public School

- A growing number of English Language Learners have special needs
 - Students entering the district in the higher grades with interrupted schooling
- E. Ramapo has been identified as a “high need, low resource” district by the New York State Education Department



Educational Outcomes

- 20 years ago, East Ramapo was one of the top performing schools in the state. Today, it is among the worst. What happened?

E. Ramapo vs. Ram Central Overall performance

District EAST RAMAPO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT (SPRING VALLEY)

District RAMAPO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT (SUFFERN)

Summary of 2007-08 District Performance

Performance on the State assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science at the elementary and middle levels is reported in terms of mean scores and the percentage of tested students scoring at or above Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4. Performance on the State assessments in ELA and mathematics at the secondary level is reported in terms of the percentage of students in a cohort scoring at these levels.

	Percentage of students that scored at or above Level 3			Total Tested
	0%	50%	100%	
English Language Arts				
Grade 3	69%			498
Grade 4	60%			567
Grade 5	59%			613
Grade 6	59%			559
Grade 7	61%			553
Grade 8	40%			617
Mathematics				
Grade 3	89%			496
Grade 4	70%			587
Grade 5	67%			623
Grade 6	67%			578
Grade 7	61%			579
Grade 8	40%			655
Science				
Grade 4	66%			565
Grade 8	54%			540

Secondary Level	Percentage of students that scored at or above Level 3			2004 Total Cohort
	0%	50%	100%	
English	69%			726
Mathematics	68%			726

Summary of 2007-08 District Performance

Performance on the State assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science at the elementary and middle levels is reported in terms of mean scores and the percentage of tested students scoring at or above Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4. Performance on the State assessments in ELA and mathematics at the secondary level is reported in terms of the percentage of students in a cohort scoring at these levels.

	Percentage of students that scored at or above Level 3			Total Tested
	0%	50%	100%	
English Language Arts				
Grade 3	84%			345
Grade 4	79%			357
Grade 5	85%			367
Grade 6	86%			364
Grade 7	79%			343
Grade 8	71%			369
Mathematics				
Grade 3	97%			345
Grade 4	92%			357
Grade 5	90%			371
Grade 6	95%			363
Grade 7	94%			345
Grade 8	86%			370
Science				
Grade 4	94%			360
Grade 8	91%			367

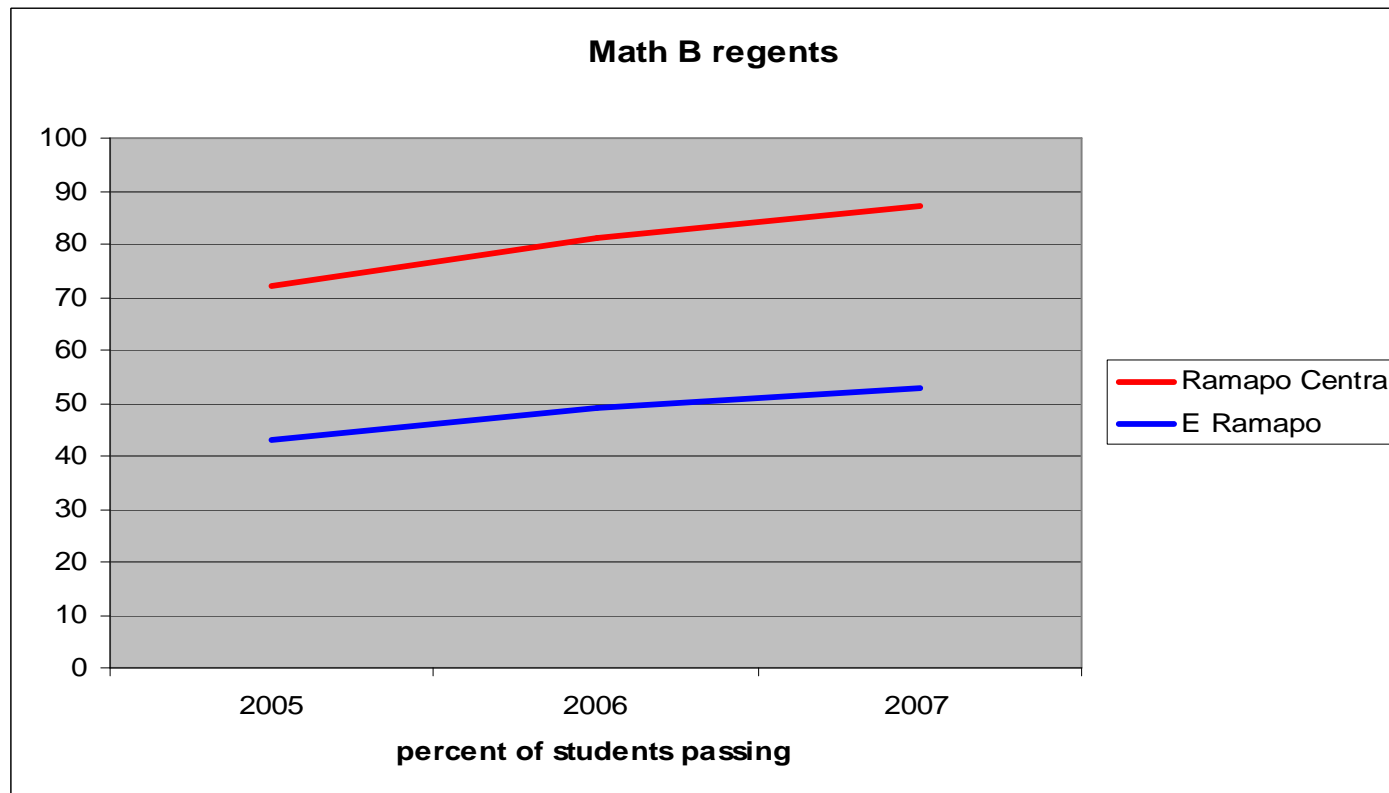
Secondary Level	Percentage of students that scored at or above Level 3			2004 Total Cohort
	0%	50%	100%	
English	91%			356
Mathematics	94%			356

E Ramapo vs. Ramapo Central Graduation Rate

Student Group (Cohort Count) ¹	AYP	Met Criterion	Graduation Rate ²
All Students (741)	✓	✓	72%
Ethnicity			
American Indian or Alaska Native (3)		-	-
Black or African American (443)	✓		73%
Hispanic or Latino (89)	✓		60%
Asian or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (89)	✓		73%
White (117)	✓		76%
Multiracial (0)			
Other Groups			
Students with Disabilities (81)	✓		33%
Limited English Proficient ³ (83)	✓		46%
Economically Disadvantaged (287)	✓		69%

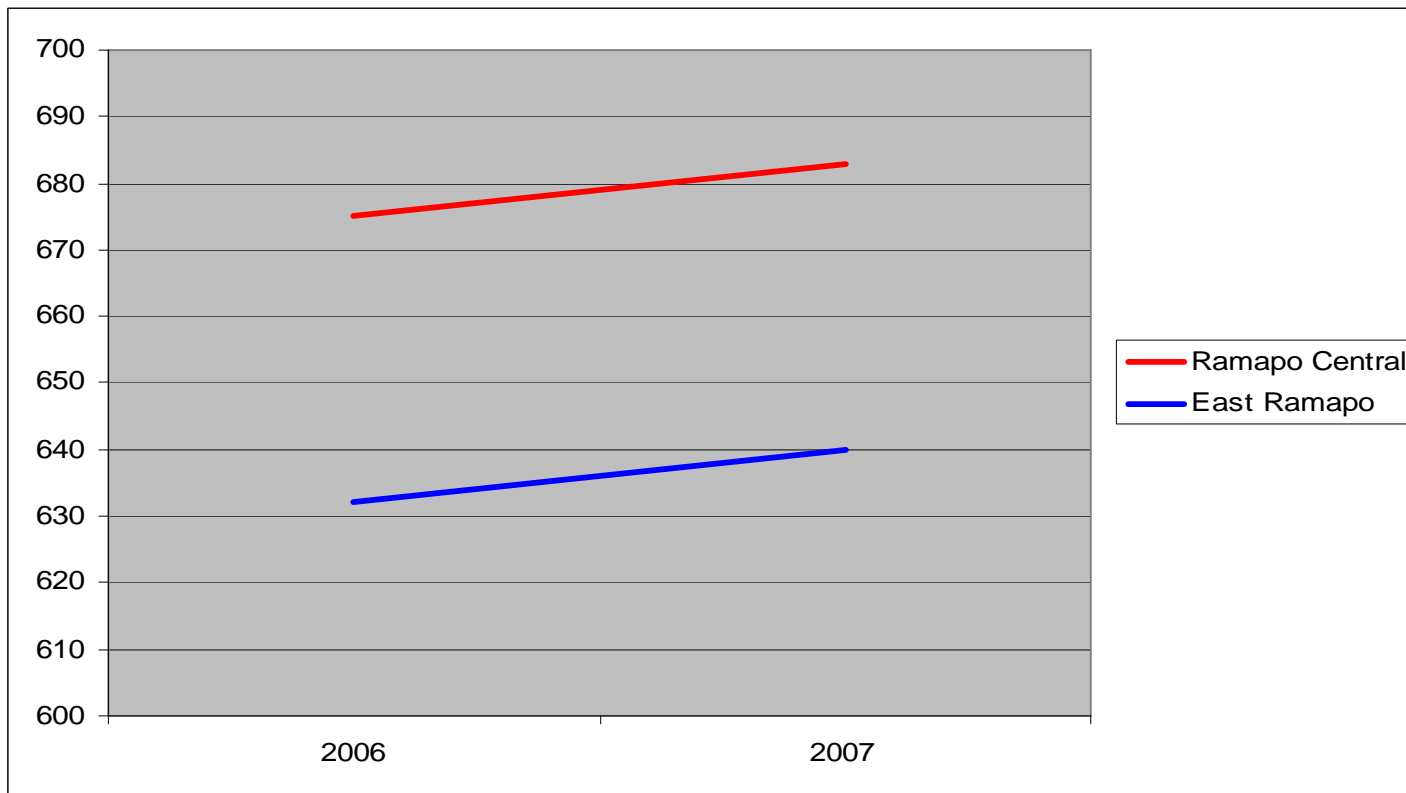
Student Group (Cohort Count) ¹	AYP	Met Criterion	Graduation Rate ²
All Students (377)	✓	✓	93%
Ethnicity			
American Indian or Alaska Native (4)		-	-
Black or African American (19)		-	-
Hispanic or Latino (34)		✓	76%
Asian or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (19)		-	-
White (301)		✓	96%
Multiracial (0)			
Other Groups			
Students with Disabilities (39)		✓	77%
Limited English Proficient ³ (6)		-	-
Economically Disadvantaged (20)		-	-

Math B Regents





Math 8 Mean score





Budget: How little do we know?

- 2005-2006 Budget: \$172 Million
 - \$ Public Education?
 - \$ Private School Education?
- Title I Funding
 - \$ Public School?
 - \$ Private School?
- Universal Pre-K
 - \$ Public School?
 - \$ Private School?



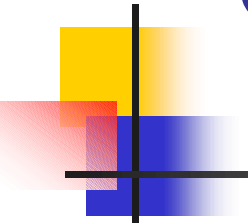
Budget: Public \$ vs. private spending

- It is unknown how much of E. Ramapo budget is spent for support of private schools, therefore it is unknown how much is spent for the education of the public students and what the actual per-pupil expense is. Speculation is rampant among the public which fuels animosity on both sides.



Private School Services

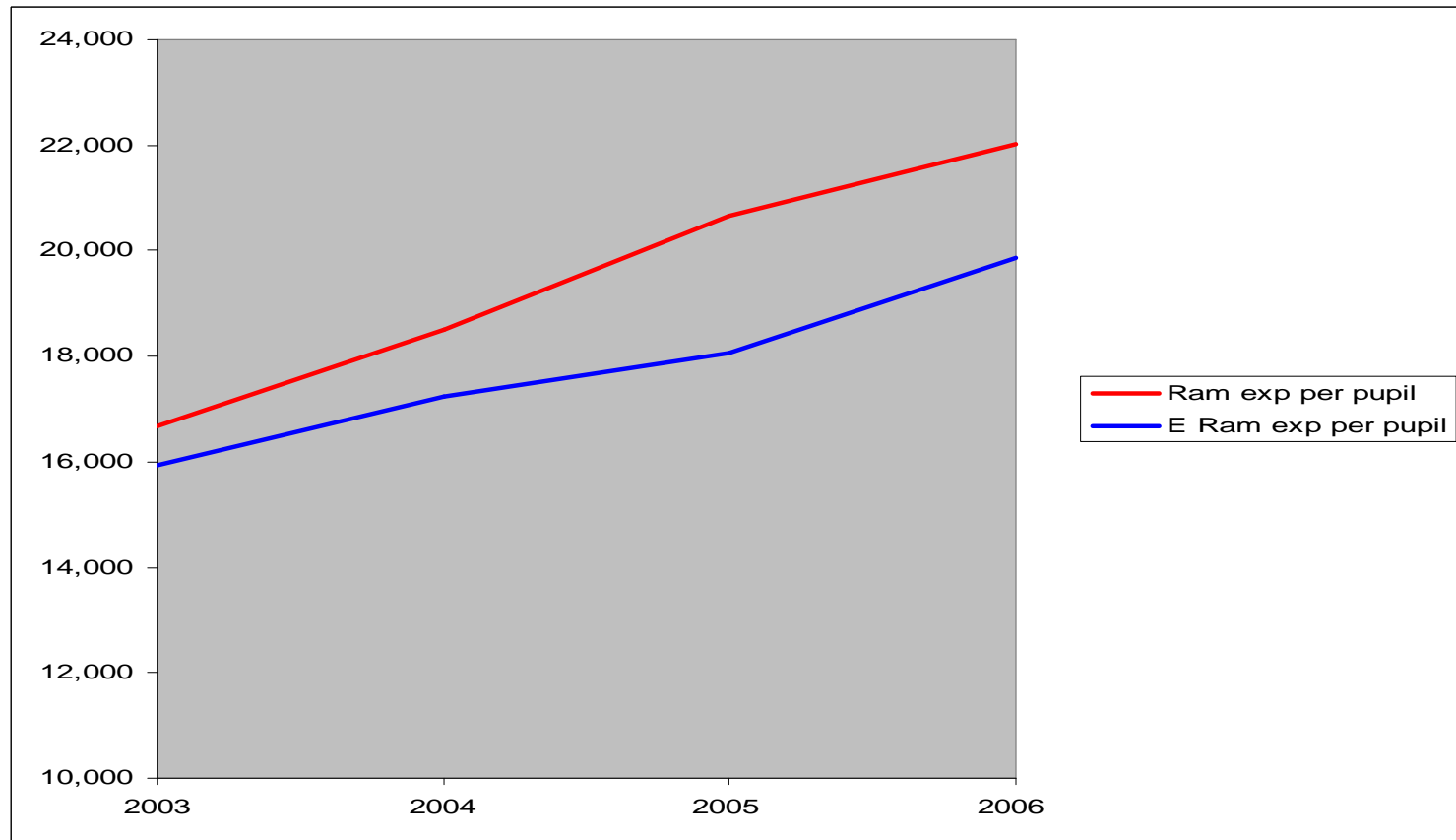
- Transportation of 17,000 students
- Textbooks
- Software
- Library
- Special Education
- Professional Development
- Curriculum Assistance
- After School Programs
- Support services (nurse, psychologist, speech therapist etc...)



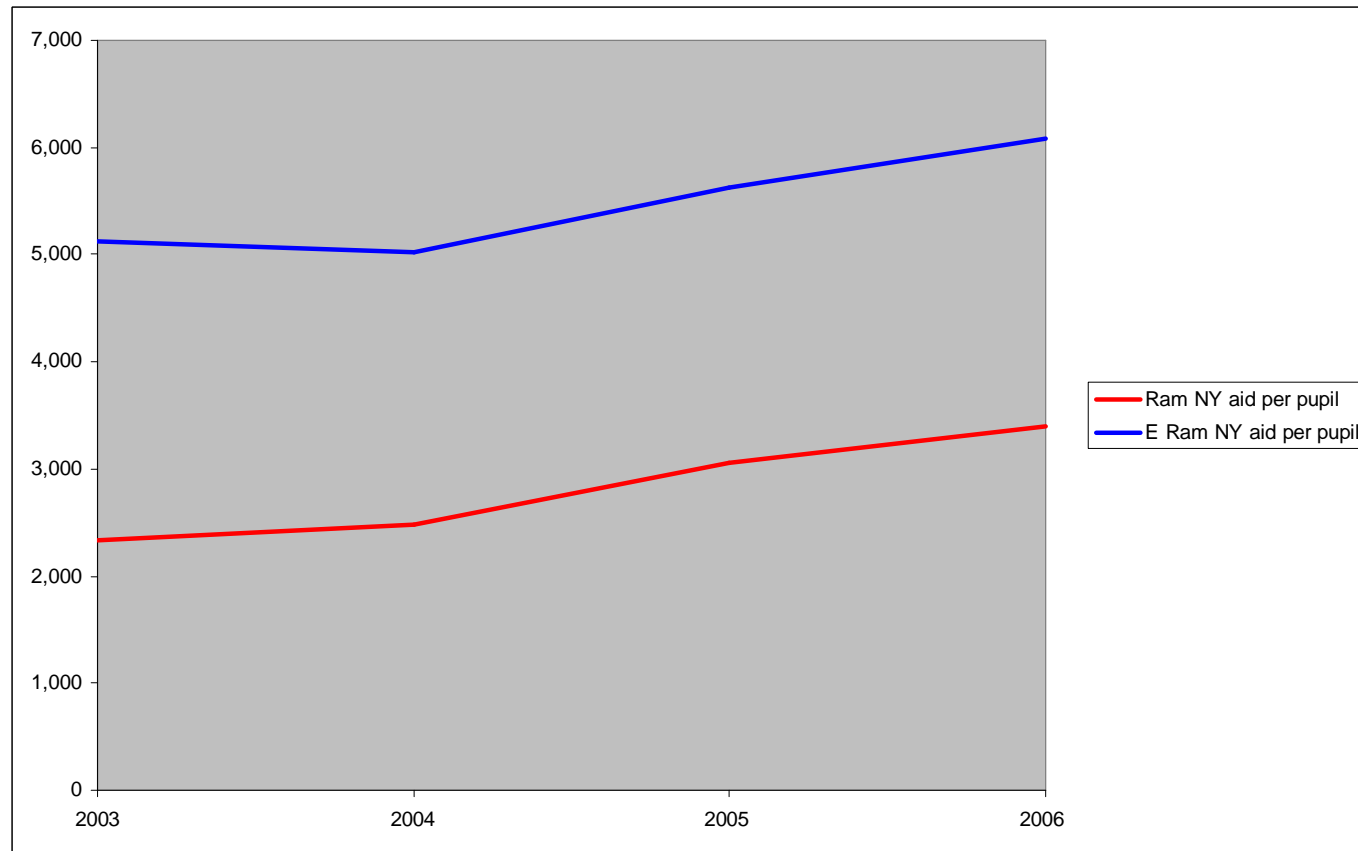
Calculating per pupil expense adjusted for private school expenses

- Estimate of East Ramapo total expenses include about 15% for private schools
- Ramapo Central total expenses are almost entirely for public schools

Expense per pupil East Ramapo vs. Ramapo Central Schools

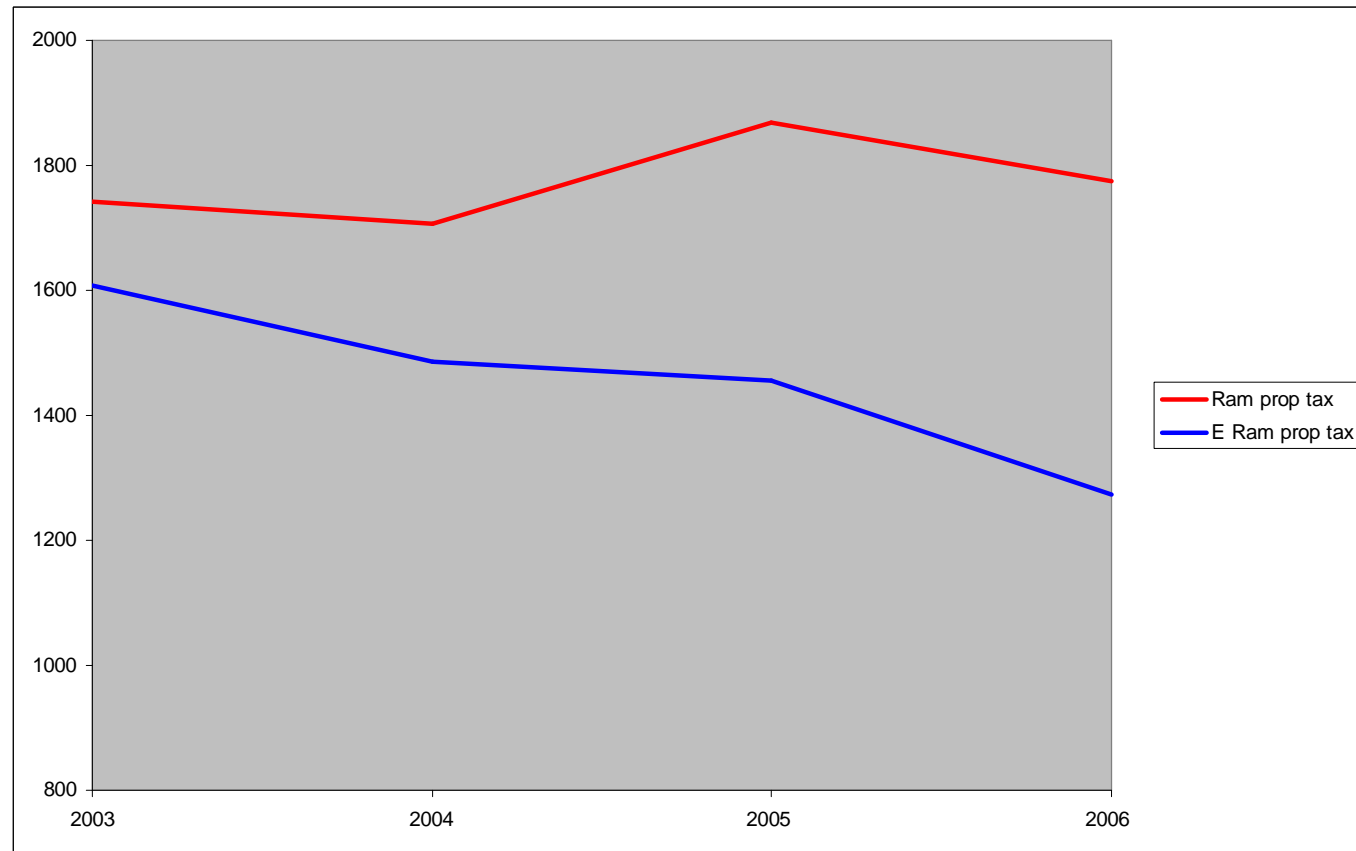


State Aid Comparison



Property tax burden

(LOCAL REVENUES DIVIDED BY PROPERTY VALUE)





Budget Trends Conclusion

- Ramapo Central has kept its tax burden steady
- East Ramapo has spent less and reduced the burden on taxpayers
- State aid to East Ramapo is approximately double that to Ramapo Central



Voter Trends

- Public School population
 - Large number of non-citizens
 - Cannot participate in School Votes
- Private School population
 - Bloc vote
 - School board members elected without the consultation of parents who use the schools
 - Conflict of interest when public funds are controlled by people elected by bloc vote



Conclusions

- Demographic profile leaning to a non-public majority puts our district at a crossroad
- Non-public community feels the dual burden of high property taxes and high private school tuitions
- Non-public community has nothing to lose by defeating school budgets
- Public school needs resources to meet New York State Learning standards
- Funding of Public schools financed through tax revenues
- Current imbalance between public and non-public school students is a threat to public education