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EDU 5741 Finance in Education  
Summer 2015  
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REFLECTION:

### Course Description

*“This course examines the establishment and management of district budget and finances to support achievement of educational goals and facility development. In order to support these educational goals, this course examines how public education is financed in New York State. Major topics include principles of school finances, revenues and taxes, fiscal problems, school purchasing, insurance, operations and maintenance of school facilities, transportation and food services. In addition, this course examines the sustainability of public education in New York State under a property tax cap and changing economic conditions.”*

I truly believed that I wasn't ready for this course. Yet again, the fear of the quantitative overwhelmed me and I broke out in a cold sweat just walking into the room. However, this course, more so than the other more mathematical courses thus far, was much more comfortable for me.

When I began my SDL program I knew that finances were a weakness for me. As it was then budget season in my financially challenged district, I decided to supplement coursework with a resole to attend every BOE meeting, community forum, and workshop that I was able in order to practically apply (or see applied) the more abstract concepts from the textbook being played out in the BOE room.

I had also already been managing a budget for a large Special Education ESY program (then a 2.2 million dollar budget) and was familiar with many of the concepts.

It was very interesting, though, to look at my district's budget from more of a “what would I have done” perspective and to discover all of the complex financial, social, emotional, and programmatic factors that play into the development and maintenance of school district finances.