



Huntington Union Free School District

James W. Polansky | Superintendent of Schools

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Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

April 19, 2020

Dear Senator Schumer,

I'll begin by expressing my appreciation for the unwavering support you have provided to the citizens of New York through the years, including its schools and students. I'll continue by adding that this support has never been needed more than at present.

I am the proud Superintendent of Schools of the Huntington School District on Long Island. The school district very successfully serves a culturally rich population, 60% of which is classified as economically disadvantaged.

Should the reduction to school aid occur at anywhere near the level projected by the Governor on Sunday, our ability to educate and provide opportunities for our students would be substantially reduced. It would lead to unmanageable class sizes and place numerous programs and services, which have contributed to the growth and well-being of all students, at considerable risk.

Moreover, upon the reopening of schools, we anticipate having to offer additional compensatory and mental health services to many students. This will also come with significant cost and lead to painful choices following any further cuts to funding.

On behalf of the Huntington School District, I appreciate the work that you and your colleagues have done with respect to passage of the CARES Act, but it is clear that additional fiscal support is needed from the federal government and especially in New York, which has been particularly hard hit by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. As negotiations move forward regarding a fourth round of federal relief, please continue to recognize New York's sizeable financial needs and the funding required to appropriately educate its children.

Again, I thank you for all that you have done and continue to do in the face of unprecedented public health and economic circumstances.

Sincerely,

James W. Polansky
Superintendent of Schools

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