
THE ALLIANCE TO SAVE PUBLIC EDUCATION

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LEADERS FROM ACROSS NEW YORK STATE

March 3, 2015

Dear Lawmaker:

Every day, nearly three million children and adolescents attend New York State's public schools: upstate and downstate, rural, urban and suburban, small, medium and large. The variety is immense. It may be painfully true that 109,000 students attend failing schools in New York State, but it also means that between 2.8 and 2.9 million students are attending successful schools. Even in successful schools, we are familiar with a certain percentage of our children who fail. We are constantly looking for ways within those systems to discover new and better methods to teach those struggling students and eliminate failure from the landscape of our public schools. However, we must continue to support the segments of our systems that create success. In fact, they should be celebrated and replicated where possible. The current effort at State reform, rather than focusing on our success and supporting what works effectively, appears to focus only on the State's failures. Failures can never be ignored, and do in fact need to be fixed, but not at the expense of damaging what creates our successful schools.

The Governor's agenda is connecting the politics of State aid to education policy...AT WHAT COST?

The Governor's agenda is failing to provide assistance to struggling schools...AT WHAT COST?

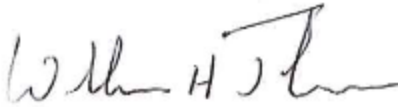





The Governor's agenda is removing control of our schools from our local communities...AT WHAT COST?

At what cost do we over test our students? It must not be at the cost of our children, and our communities.

New York's public schools include many that sustain student learning at high levels, and also some schools that fall below everyone's expectations. We believe the best use of our resources allows schools that work to continue to do so, and, at the same time, to support schools that need help to engage their students at the level we expect for all children. In a state as varied as New York, a one-size-fits-all approach to school improvement is bound to damage schools that already engender student success, while dissipating the focused support that failing schools require, to meet the needs of their students.

We urge the legislature to refrain from enacting the Governor's proposals without a thoughtful debate.

Sincerely,

		
William H. Johnson, Ed. D. Superintendent Rockville Centre UFSD	Steven R. Cohen, Ph.D. Superintendent Shoreham-Wading River CSD	Michael J. Hynes, Ed..D. Superintendent Patchogue-Medford UFSD
		
David Gamberg Superintendent Southold UFSD	Joseph V. Rella, Ph.D. Superintendent Comsewogue UFSD	Dan Brenner, Ph.D. Superintendent Roslyn UFSD

(cont.)

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David Gamberg Superintendent Greenport UFSD	Paulette Ofrias Board of Education President Southold UFSD	Daniel B. Creedon Board of Education President Greenport UFSD
		
Denise Edwards PTA President Greenport UFSD	Dawn Grzegorcyk PTA President Southold UFSD	David J. Flatley Superintendent Carle Place UFSD
		
Leonard Skuggevik Superintendent Shelter Island UFSD	Arnold Dodge, Ph.D. LIU-Post	Gordon Brosdal Superintendent Mount Sinai UFSD
		
Thomas P. Dolan, Ed. D. Superintendent Great Neck UFSD	Charles A. Leunig Superintendent Copiague UFSD	Brian J. Sales Board of Education President Copiague UFSD

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Lars Clemensen Superintendent Hampton Bays UFSD	Chris Garvey Board of Education President Hampton Bays UFSD	J. Phillip Perna Superintendent Montauk UFSD
		
Joseph Giani Ed.D. Superintendent South Country CSD	Chris Picini Board of Education President South Country CSD	Phyllis Mabon-Virno PTA Council President South Country CSD
		
Anne Smith, Ed.D. Superintendent Mattituck-Cutchogue UFSD	Gerard E. Diffley Board of Education President Mattituck-Cutchogue UFSD	Carmen Gumina Superintendent Webster CSD
		
Michael Suffoletto Board of Education President Webster CSD	Kris Canessa PTSA Co-President Webster CSD	Denise Bellavia PTSA Co-President Webster CSD

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Kimberle Ward Superintendent Gates Chili CSD	Lowell Benjamin Board of Education President Gates Chili CSD	Erik Johnson GCTA President Gates Chili CSD
		
William C. Cala, Ed.D. Superintendent Fairport CSD	Margaret Cardona Board of Education President Fairport CSD	Maureen Nupp Board of Education Member Fairport CSD
		
Peter Forsgren Board of Education Member Fairport CSD	Mary Jones, Ed.D. Superintendent Wyandanch UFSD	Thomas Tolliver Board of Education President Wyandanch UFSD
		
Roberta A. Gerold, Ed.D. Superintendent Middle Country CSD	Karen Lessler, Ed.D. Board of Education President Middle Country CSD	Lisa Burns-Rawlinson PTA/PTSA Council President Middle Country CSD

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Lynda G. Adams Superintendent Connetquot CSD	Richard J. Burns Superintendent East Hampton UFSD	Richard S. Rozakis Superintendent Babylon UFSD
		
Yiendhy Farrelly, Ed.D. Superintendent West Babylon UFSD	Eleanor Tritt Superintendent Amagansett UFSD	Lois R. Favre Superintendent Bridgehampton UFSD
		
Timothy T. Eagen, Ed.D. Superintendent Kings Park CSD	Mary T. Kelly, Ed.D. Superintendent Amityville UFSD	Kenneth R. Bossert, Ed.D. Superintendent Port Jefferson UFSD
		
Ronald M. Masera, Ed.D. Superintendent Remsenberg-Speonk UFSD	James J. Nolan Superintendent Sachem CSD	Sal Tripi Board of Education Sachem CSD

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Sincerely,

		
Tonie McDonald, Ed.D. Superintendent Levittown UFSD	Peggy Marengi Board of Education President Levittown Public Schools	Ed Powers Board of Education VP Levittown Public Schools
		
Karen Smith Board of Education Trustee Levittown Public Schools	Kevin Regan Board of Education Trustee Levittown Public Schools	Frank Ward Board of Education Trustee Levittown Public Schools
		
James Moran Board of Education Trustee Levittown Public Schools	Michael Pappas Board of Education Trustee Levittown Public Schools	Cheryl Pedisich Superintendent Three Village CSD
		
Michael Ring, Ed. D. Superintendent Rocky Point UFSD	Susan Y. Sullivan Board of Education President Rocky Point UFSD	Mary Nixdorf PTA President Rocky Point UFSD

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John Lorentz Superintendent Farmingdale UFSD	Robert Manley Dean, School of Education Dowling College	David S. Feller Superintendent North Merrick UFSD
		
Susan Fahey Glisson President Parents for Public Schools of Syracuse, Inc.	James P. Newton, Ed.D. Superintendent Tonawanda CSD	Charles Cardillo Superintendent Manhasset Public UFSD
		
Regina Rule Board of Education President Manhasset UFSD	Michael R. Lonergan, DSW Superintendent Longwood CSD	Nancy Carney Superintendent Riverhead CSD
		
Marianne F. Higuera, Ed.D. Superintendent Miller Place UFSD	Lois Powell Superintendent Spackenkill UFSD	Thomas Keith, Jr. Board of Education President Spackenkill UFSD

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Gene Mancuso Superintendent Honeoye Falls-Lima CSD	Carol Burris, Ed.D. Principal Southside High School	Patricia Sullivan-Kriss Superintendent Hauppauge UFSD
		
David M. Barshay Board of Education President Hauppauge UFSD	Les Black Superintendent East Quogue UFSD	Kathryn P. Tureski Board of Education President East Quogue UFSD
		
Marie Testa Superintendent North Bellmore UFSD	John DeTommaso Superintendent Bellmore-Merrick CHSD	Loretta M. Ferraro Superintendent Fire Island UFSD
		
Walter F. Schartner, Ed.D. Superintendent Sayville UFSD	Mary Fox-Alter Superintendent Pleasantville UFSD	Peter Giarrizzo, Ed.D. Superintendent Pelham Public Schools

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Peter Mustich, Ed.D. Superintendent Rye Neck UFSD	Lauren Allan, Ed.D. Superintendent Ardsley UFSD	Edward Melnick Superintendent North Shore CSD
		
Herman Berliner Board of Education President North Shore CSD	Antoinette Labbatte Board of Education VP North Shore CSD	Lisa Brady, Ed.D. Superintendent Dobbs Ferry UFSD
		
Mary E. Curcio Superintendent McGraw Central Schools	Richard C. Malone Superintendent Oysterponds UFSD	Michael Yazurlo, Ed.D. Superintendent Yonkers Public Schools
		
Deborah L. Fox Superintendent Livingston Manor CSD	James H. Hunderfund, Ed.D. Superintendent Malverne UFSD	John E. Slattery, Ed. D. Interim Superintendent Morristown CSD

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James Cruikshank Superintendent of Schools Norwood-Norfolk CSD	Michael J. Hoose Superintendent Cortland Enlarged City SD	Melissa Burak, Ed.D. Superintendent Lynbrook UFSD
		
Martin Handler, Ed.D. Superintendent Pine Plains CSD	James Montesano, Ed.D. Superintendent Nyack Public Schools	Tricia S. Newton Superintendent Geneva CSD
		
Stephen Parker Zielinski Superintendent South Seneca CSD	Michael DePerna Board of Education President South Seneca CSD	Scott N. Connell Superintendent Copenhagen Central School
		
Robert Stackel Board of Education President Copenhagen Central School	John Cain CTA President Copenhagen Central School	Corliss C. Kaiser, Ph.D. Superintendent Fayetteville-Manlius CSD

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Kyle C. Bower Superintendent Hammondsport Central School	Timothy C. Hayes Superintendent Geneseo CSD	Jon Huberth Board of Education President Monroe-Woodbury CSD
		
Michael K. Ginals Superintendent Corning City SD	Brian Schmitt, Ed.D. Superintendent Genesee Valley CSD	Amber Christensen Board of Education President Genesee Valley CSD
		
Dean McKnight Board of Education VP Genesee Valley CSD	L. Olliver Robinson, Ed.D. Superintendent Shenendehowa CSD	Brian Hunt Superintendent Edmeston CSD
		
Sandra Anzalone Superintendent Eden CSDI	Larry Scott Buffalo PTO Co-Chair	Henry Grishman Superintendent Jericho UFSD
		

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Sincerely,

Douglas W. Huntley, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Queensbury UFSD

Raymond Gordon
Board of Education President
Queensbury UFSD

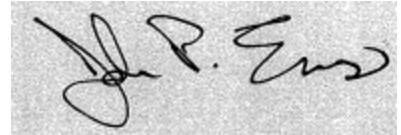
Timothy J. Weaver
Board of Education VP
Queensbury UFSD



Daniel P. Murray, Ed.D.
Superintendent
York CSD



Edward A. Salina, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent
Plainedge Public Schools



John P. Evans
Shared Superintendent
Roscoe & Downsville CSDs



Casey Barduhn
Superintendent
Westhill CSD



Mr. Casey Kosiorek
Superintendent
Byron-Bergen CSD



David Dimbleby
Superintendent
Hilton CSD

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Daniel J. Wellington Board of Education President Hilton CSD	Barbara Cutrona Board of Education Member Hilton CSD	Timothy Gagnon Board of Education Member Hilton CSD
		
Thomas Abbott Board of Education Member Hilton CSD	Michelle M. Ames Board of Education Member Hilton CSD	Agnes M. Seneway Board of Education VP Hilton CSD
		
Nancy Pickering Board of Education Member Hilton CSD	Kristopher Harrison, Ed.D. Superintendent Irvington UFSD	Jonathan R. Retz Superintendent Greene CSD
		
Kenneth A. Facin Superintendent Hoosick Falls CSD	Amy Ferullo Co-President Teacher's Association Hoosick Falls CSD	Jennifer McDonald Co-President Teacher's Association Hoosick Falls CSD

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Joseph L. Ricca, Ed.D. Superintendent Elmsford UFSD	Michael J. Colasuonno President, Board of Education Elmsford UFSD	Robert I. Shaps, Ed.D. Superintendent Mamaroneck UFSD
		
Patricia Norton-White Superintendent South Kortright Central School	Joseph J. Yelich Superintendent Oneonta CSD	Patrick Darfler-Sweeney, Ed.D. Superintendent Hunter-Tannersville CSD
		
Raymond Sanchez Superintendent Ossining UFSD	William Kress Superintendent Ossining UFSD	Jeremy P. Palotti Superintendent Canisteo-Greenwood CSD
		
William R. Diamond Superintendent Worcester CSD	Brian M. Corey Superintendent Jefferson CSD	William Silver, Ed.D. Superintendent Liberty CSD

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Thomas J. Douglas Ed.D.
Superintendent
Bethlehem CSD



David Rounds
Teachers' Association President
Bethlehem CSD



Matthew J. Downey
Board of Education President
Bethlehem CSD



Michael Klugman
Principals Assoc. President
Bethlehem CSD



Ralph Marino, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Horseheads CSD



James Jacobus
Board of Education Member
Horseheads CSD



Pamela Strollo
Board of Education VP
Horseheads CSD



Warren Conklin
Board of Education Member
Horseheads CSD



Karen Boulas
Board of Education Member
Horseheads CSD



David Sadler
Board of Education Member
Horseheads CSD



Brian Lynch
Board of Education President
Horseheads CSD



Rose Apgar
Board of Education Member
Horseheads CSD


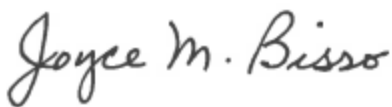


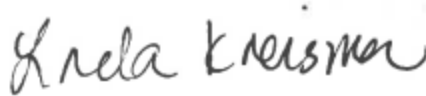
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C. Douglas Johnson Board of Education Member Horseheads CSD	Joyce M. Bisso, Ed.D. Superintendent Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD	Scott McInnis Board of Education President Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD
		
Cheryl May Board of Education VP Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD	Linda Kreisman Central Council PTA President Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD	
