



January 27, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor,

We are writing as community leaders and advocates representing schoolchildren and families, as we are deeply concerned regarding planned supplantation of state dollars using federal stimulus funds meant for localities for education and critical support services. The supplantation of \$800 million in New York State education funding with stimulus funds, as well as other cost shifts and aid reductions, will limit the ability of New York City schools to meet the needs of students.

Our schools have already seen substantial cuts while staff work to address the needs associated with remote learning and the opening and closing of buildings. Further, there will be many needs to be addressed in the 2021-2022 school year, including but not limited to addressing learning loss, social emotional needs, and support services for students in shelter and temporary housing, students with disabilities, and English language learners.

While some education stimulus funding will flow to the localities, we need every dollar. Offsetting cuts to state education aid with federal dollars intended for one-time education stimulus funding will shortchange our students from services needed this year, and lead to large budget gaps in future years.

We are also concerned by the consolidation of vital expense-based funding aid into a Services Aid block grant with capped funding. These aids support programs that directly serve children and families, such as busing and special needs programs, and budget reductions will have tangible impacts in families' everyday lives. Further, eliminating the Charter Lease Aid results in leaving localities like New York City with an unfunded mandate, which may require reductions in other vital services.

As we welcome the new Biden administration, we look forward to the Federal aid that you have fought for on behalf of all New Yorkers, and commit to stand alongside you and the administration to be provided our fair share - the full \$15 billion needed to close the New York State deficit. However, we ask that you also commit to provide all education stimulus funding to New York City and all localities to ensure that the burdens of this economic downturn aren't placed on our most vulnerable.

Sincerely,

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