

Miller Place Union Free School District

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Board of Education

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Richard Panico, Vice President
Noelle Dunlop, Trustee
Keith Frank, Trustee
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Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
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Susan G. Craddock
**Executive Director for
Educational Services**
Sandra A. Wojnowski

September 3, 2020

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

Via Email: www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me

Senator Charles E. Schumer

Via Email: www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck

Congressman Lee Zeldin

Via Email: CongressmanZeldin1@mail.house.gov.

Governor Andrew Cuomo

Via Fax: (518) 474-1513

Senator Kenneth LaValle

Via Email: LaValle@nysenate.gov

Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo

Via Email: Palumboa@nyassembly.gov

Dear Elected Official:

As we begin the new 2020-21 school year, we hope this communication finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe. Our school community has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting our essential workers, providing support to our local food banks, operating a regional childcare program and taking care of each other as we struggle with all the ramifications an international pandemic has caused.

As we are all aware, New York State has been one of the most severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused a financial crisis at the state and local levels, causing fiscal instability for most government agencies, including school districts. Boards of Education across New York State have been advised we can anticipate a reduction in state aid of approximately 20% for the 2020-21 school year. These financial reductions are in sharp contrast to the vast amount of economic strain imposed on our operating budget due to the necessary steps to minimize the health risks for our returning students and staff.

As you may be aware, school districts received a reduction in our August 2020 state aid payments, not due to the COVID-19 financial crisis, but are the result of issues surrounding the Federal government budget. As per the New York State Division of Budget, these withholdings are not the actual anticipated state aid cuts, and are in addition to the state aid reductions and they could become permanent reductions if the federal government does not provide sufficient funding in the near and distant future.

As our elected officials we implore you act quickly to stop any and all Federal and State reductions regarding payments to New York State school districts. As District leaders we remain focused on the mission of returning students to our classrooms, and providing them with the social, emotional, and academic supports they need in order to achieve their 2020-21 instructional goals.

Please recognize any reductions in Federal or State aid payments would dramatically reduce our ability to sustain our District's fiscal health, as well as maintain the support needed to ensure our students and staff physical health.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Marianne Cartisano

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
Superintendent of Schools

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Nancy Sanders

Nancy Sanders
MP Teachers Union

Joseph Zito

Joseph Zito
MP Administrators Union

Noreen Killeen

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MP Nurses Union

Maria Tyler

Maria Tyler
MP Clerical Union

Cory Breines

Cory Breines
MP Operations Union