



# Chappaqua Central School District

Joshua Culwell-Block  
Assistant Superintendent for Business

Christine Ackerman Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

January 18, 2024

Dear Senator Peter Harkham, Assemblyman Chris Burdick, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie, and Governor Kathy Hochul,

In the Executive Run of the Governor's most recent budget for the 2024-2025 academic year, the Chappaqua Central School District, and similar districts, have received a significant reduction in New York State Aid. While we expect fluctuations in our NYS Aid allocations, we have never experienced a shortfall of over a million dollars while operating under the tax levy limit formula.

Currently, our projected levy limit is 1.6%. We are already considering presenting an override budget to our Board of Education in order to support, among other items, additional School Resource Officers as our calls for legislative relief to exempt security personnel have gone unanswered.

It is our understanding that the Governor is proposing a "wealth-based adjustment" for those districts that are receiving more than the basic formula. The previous formula includes "save harmless" increases, ensuring that no district receives significantly less state aid than the previous year.

We ask that the legislature restore the "save harmless" portion of the state aid formula and, at a minimum, keep our New York State Aid at the same level as it was in the 2023-24 school year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joshua Culwell-Block  
Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Chappaqua Central School District

cc: Dr. Christine Ackerman, Superintendent of School  
Board of Education, Chappaqua Central School District