



Chappaqua Central School District

Board of Education
Hilary Grasso, President
Cailee Hwang, Vice President
Matt Auerbach
Alissa Dorfman
Ryan Kelsey

February 28, 2024

Dear Chappaqua Central School District Community:

We are writing to share with you concerns regarding Governor Hochul's New York State Executive Budget proposal which, if approved, will negatively impact the Chappaqua Central School District. The Governor's budget executive budget recommendations eliminates the *Save Harmless* provision for Foundation Aid, leading to a state aid revenue reduction for our district. This represents a dramatic loss of economic support which we traditionally receive from the State towards our programs.

As it currently stands in the Governor's Proposed Budget, our Foundation Aid would be reduced by \$802,524 (18.74%) in 2024-25 and an additional \$802,524 in 2025-26.

This reduction in NYS Foundation Aid, particularly this late in the budgeting process, poses significant challenges for us. Unlike neighboring districts, we haven't seen substantial increases in Foundation Aid in recent years. Additionally, we were one of just two districts in New York State that didn't receive COVID aid from the Federal Government. We find this untenable and ask you to consider contacting our local state legislators to voice concerns for our District and ask them to:

- **Reject** the New York State Executive Budget Proposal's proposed reductions from Save Harmless state revenue support to many school districts in the Lower Hudson Valley and the resulting loss of Foundation Aid to our schools.
- **Restore** our New York State Foundation Aid to the same amount allocated in 2023-2024.
- **Amend** the Regional Cost Index of the Lower Hudson Valley to reflect the high cost of operating in the suburbs of NYC, similar to what exists for Long Island suburbs.
- **Support** new language that allows school security personnel costs to be exempt from the Tax Levy limit formula as outlined in our [letter](#) to the Governor and New York State legislators dated October 23, 2023.

Please find a comprehensive list of our elected officials representing the state of New York, along with their respective contact details [here](#). Your consideration to advocate on behalf of our school district is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hilary S. Grasso". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hilary S. Grasso
President, Board of Education