

EAST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



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November 7, 2024

Dear East Islip School Community,

We are reaching out to share an important development that could significantly impact the future of our school district. Recently, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) introduced a “Regionalization Plan” that may alter East Islip School District's structure and identity. This plan was set forth as an Emergency Regulation in the NY State Register on September 25, 2024. In response, the East Islip Board of Education, along with our administrators' and teachers' bargaining units, have sent a letter of concern to the Commissioner of Education, expressing our serious reservations and opposition to the plan. The letter will be posted on the district’s website.

What is the Regionalization Plan?

The Regionalization Plan is a state-mandated proposal requiring school districts to consider consolidations and resource-sharing with neighboring districts, enforcing a global model with no option to opt out. Our primary concerns include:

- **Loss of Local Control:** This plan could shift decision-making authority away from our locally elected Board of Education, instead placing more control with a BOCES superintendent. This change would reduce our district’s autonomy in making decisions that reflect East Islip's unique needs.
- **Impact on Classroom Resources:** Regionalization could mandate the acceptance of students from other districts, potentially straining classroom resources and affecting class sizes, which could alter the quality of education our students currently receive. However, there has not been any clear guidance as to how this will be accomplished.
- **Data Reporting Requirements:** The plan currently imposes extensive reporting requirements on our district, diverting resources away from direct support for students and teachers. They have asked the districts to respond to a 40-page survey with information they already have available to them.
- **Lack of Transparency on Financial and Governance Implications:** Limited information has been provided on how this plan might impact East Islip’s financial health and governance structure, leaving critical questions unanswered.

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How You Can Support Our Opposition?

We believe it is essential for East Islip to maintain control over our schools, preserving the high standards and quality of education that our students deserve. A public comment period for this proposal is open through November 24th, and we strongly encourage you to voice your thoughts. Comments can be submitted to the New York State Education Department at:

New York State Office of Children and Family Services
52 Washington Street, Room 133 North
Rensselaer, NY 12144
Fax: 518-486-6378
E-mail: regcomments@ocfs.ny.gov

You can also contact the Commissioner of Education and the Governor of New York State directly to share your concerns as well as our local representatives.

Contact Information:

- **Commissioner of Education, NYSED**
Office of the Commissioner of Education
Phone: (518) 474-5844
Email: commissioner@nysed.gov
- **Governor of New York**
Office of the Governor
Phone: (518) 474-8390
Website: www.governor.ny.gov

Contact Local Representatives:

- **Congressman Andrew Garbarino**
Phone: (202) 225-7896
[Website](#)
- **Senator Alexis Weik**
Phone: (631) 360-3356
[Website](#)
- **Assemblyman Jarett Gandolfo**
Phone: (631) 589-0348
[Website](#)

We are committed to advocating for the best interests of East Islip and will keep you informed as more information becomes available. For more information you may visit the New York State Education website at: [Description | New York State Education Department](#) Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our schools.

Sincerely,

The East Islip Board of Education