



# MANHASSET PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Steven Panzik**, President  
**Ted Post**, Vice President  
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November 21, 2024

Dr. Lester Young, Chancellor NYS Board of Regents  
Dr. Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner of Education  
New York State Education Department  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Chancellor Young and Commissioner Rosa,

The Manhasset community, Board of Education and Administration strongly oppose the Regionalization regulation. This regulation will have a significant impact on local control and our district's valued resources inclusive of teachers, staff, and administration. These components are fundamental to our success and are non-negotiable. Recent statements from the Department suggest that regionalization is not meant to compromise local autonomy; however, the regulatory language does not match this statement, which is deeply concerning.

Manhasset, like many districts in Nassau County, has a strong history of effective collaboration through mechanisms such as Intermunicipal Agreements and BOCES cooperative services. These established mechanisms illustrate that districts are currently working together effectively without the need for additional oversight or mandates. Maintaining local governance to achieve our District's goals is essential to protect the interests and resources of our community. Foundational rights critical to every New York school district are the right of Voluntary Participation, the right to Maintain Local Decision-Making, and the right to transparency of the Commissioner's authority.

Our Board of Education and Administration stand firmly against any initiative that compromises local control or redistributes taxpayer resources to other districts. Such measures would not only erode trust but also jeopardize the ability of districts like Manhasset to serve their students effectively.

We strongly oppose this regulation and call for its complete dismissal. We are committed to advocating for the needs of our students, protecting local control and the resources of our community. Thank you for your attention to these critical concerns.

Sincerely,

Manhasset Board of Education:

Steve Panzik, President  
Ted Post, Vice President  
Marianna Bruno, PharmD, MPH, MBA, Trustee  
Nadia Giannopoulos, Ed.D., Trustee  
Maria Pescatore, Trustee

Gaurav Passi, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools