



SEAFORD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education

January 7, 2025

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Superintendent of Schools

Commissioner Betty A. Rosa
New York State Education Department
Office of Education Policy
89 Washington Avenue
Education Building Room 2M
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Commissioner Rosa:

The Board of Education and I appreciate your consideration and communication regarding Subpart 124-2 Regulations and the regionalization planning process. We value our partnership with NYSED and the conversations that have started.

After careful consideration with our Board of Education and community, Seaford Union Free School District **will not participate** in the regionalization process. Please be advised at the Board of Education meeting on December 11, 2024, the Seaford Board of Education unanimously passed a Resolution exercising its election not to participate in the development of a regionalization plan or in any aspect of the regionalization plan unless otherwise subsequently authorized by the Board of Education (see below).

Recommend the Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2024, the New York State Board of Regents approved, by emergency adoption, the addition of Part 124 and Subpart 124-2 to Subchapter E of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to regionalization plans ("Regionalization Regulations"); and
WHEREAS, at its December 9, 2024 meeting, the New York State Board of Regents approved the Regionalization Regulations for final adoption, as amended (the "Amended Regionalization Regulations"); and
WHEREAS, the Amended Regionalization Regulations added a new Section 124-2.8 titled, "Non-participation", which provides a mechanism for a school district to elect not to participate in the development of a regionalization plan by notifying the New York State Education Department's Office of Education Policy of such election, in writing, by no later than January 15, 2025, and every ten years thereafter; and
WHEREAS, at the December 9th Board of Regents meeting, New York State Education Department representatives further asserted that notification electing not to

participate under the Amended Regionalization Regulations constitutes an opt-out of the entirety of the regionalization process, including the development and implementation of a regionalization plan; and

WHEREAS, the School District strongly opposes any initiative that jeopardizes local control of our schools, or redistributes taxpayer dollars and resources to other jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the preservation, protection and maintenance of complete and total local control of all School District operations is of paramount importance to the Board of Education and Administration, and in the best interests of the Seaford School community, our students and our schools; and

WHEREAS, after review and consideration of the Amended Regionalization Regulations, the School District has determined that it will not participate in the development of a regionalization plan or any aspect of a regionalization plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in accordance with the foregoing, the School District hereby exercises its election not to participate in the development of a regionalization plan or in any aspect of the regionalization plan unless otherwise subsequently authorized by the Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools shall provide written notification of said election to not participate in a regionalization plan to the New York State Department's Office of Education Policy prior to January 15, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said notification to the New York State Department's Office of Education Policy shall include an express reservation of the School District's rights and remedies respecting its decision not to participate in the regionalization plan and/or any other action that negatively impacts local control of the District's operations.

Please note that the Seaford School District expressly reserves all rights and remedies in connection with the foregoing, including, but not limited to, its election of non-participation in the planning process, regionalization regulations, and/or any other action act, omission or mandate that negatively impacts local control of the District's operations.

Thank you for understanding the importance of local decision making. We are grateful for your support and look forward to future collaboration to ensure strong educational programs for our students.

Kindly confirm receipt of this notification to the following email address:
apecora@seaford.k12.ny.us

Sincerely,



Adele V. Pecora, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: New York State Education Department