



# HIGHLAND FALLS-FORT MONTGOMERY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. Michael McElduff, Superintendent of Schools

During the Board of Education meeting held on February 6, 2025, Mr. McElduff presented a request for support from our community. Your input is essential in securing the necessary funding to sustain our programs for students. This document provides details on how to reach out to our governmental representatives, along with key information to communicate with them. We encourage your advocacy and participation in this important effort. Please take a few moments to review the information provided.

Thank you for your commitment to advocating for our students, faculty, staff, and community!

## **How to contact our representatives:**

Congressman Pat Ryan:

[https://patryan.house.gov/address\\_authentication?form=/contact/email-me](https://patryan.house.gov/address_authentication?form=/contact/email-me)

Senator Charles Schumer:

<https://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/message-chuck>

Senator Kristen Gillibrand:

<https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me/>

## **Talking Points for Community Advocacy**

**Subject: Urgent Action Needed – Protect Impact Aid for Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery CSD**

Dear [*Representative's Name*],

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the potential loss of over \$3.4 million in Federal Impact Aid for the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District. This funding is not discretionary, it is a federal obligation that compensates our district for lost tax revenue due to the presence of federal land. Without it, our schools will face devastating consequences, including:

- The elimination of over 30 faculty, staff and administration positions, leading to significantly larger class sizes and fewer individualized learning opportunities.
- Drastic reductions in student resources and services, disproportionately impacting our most vulnerable students.
- Cuts to critical academic programs, extracurricular activities, and necessary building maintenance and repairs, further diminishing the quality of education in our district.

As you know, 93% of our district's land is federally or state-owned, meaning we lack the tax base to offset this loss. Our local taxpayers cannot and should not be forced to bear the burden of the federal government failing to meet its commitments.

Project 2025 explicitly calls for eliminating Impact Aid that is not tied to students, which would be devastating for our district. Impact Aid is how the federal government pays its share for the students it directly impacts, and removing this funding would irreparably harm our schools, educators, and children.

***PUT IN HOW THIS WOULD PERSONALLY IMPACT YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN***

I urge you to publicly oppose any cuts to Impact Aid and to advocate for its continued protection in the federal budget. Our students and community depend on it.

Please do everything in your power to ensure that Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery CSD and other federally impacted districts are not abandoned.

Sincerely,