

Miller Place Union Free School District

7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, New York 11764-2036

Telephone: (631) 474-2700 Fax: (631) 474-0686

Superintendent of Schools

Seth A. Lipshie

Assistant Superintendent

Susan G. Craddock

School Business Official

Colleen V. Card

Director of Human Resources

Christopher J. Herrschaft

Board of Education

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Jennifer Keller, Trustee

Andrea Spaniolas, Trustee

November 5, 2025

Congressman Nick LaLota
515 Hauppauge Road, Suite 3b
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Dear Congressman LaLota,

The Miller Place Board of Education is writing to you today on behalf of the Miller Place School District. Please know that we are a non-partisan body whose sole focus is on serving the educational and developmental needs of the youth in our community.

A free, appropriate public education is a cornerstone of our nation, ensuring students are prepared to contribute productively to society and succeed in varied pathways. Whether entering the workforce, continuing studies at colleges and universities, or serving in our nation's military, public education ensures that young people are knowledgeable, skilled, and ready to contribute productively to our communities, our country, and our economy.

In Miller Place, as is the case throughout the congressional district you represent, public schools rely on stable federal and state funding to maintain key programs and address significant property tax burdens, which makes affordability a continuous concern. Potential reductions to ESSA and IDEA grants, amounting to over \$750,000 for our community, along with possible Medicaid cuts, threaten vital support for our students with special needs and would exacerbate existing inequities, considering that Miller Place taxpayers already contribute more than they receive. Consistent funding is crucial not just for alleviating local tax pressures but also for fostering economic growth, drawing in families and businesses, and sustaining vibrant communities. For many, access to a well-funded public education is the most reliable route to upward mobility and a more equitable future.

Public education, including the Miller Place School District, is essential for developing informed, engaged citizens and safeguarding our democracy for generations to come. Our schools are where future voters learn the principles of democracy, civil discourse, and responsible citizenship. By investing in civics and civic engagement, we cultivate an electorate capable of understanding complex issues and participating constructively in local, state, and national governance, ensuring the health and functionality of our democracy for generations to come.

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Thank you for your continued commitment to our region. Please keep public education — and the students and educators of the Miller Place School District and all of Long Island — at the forefront of federal priorities by preserving critical education and Medicaid funding.

Sincerely,

Lisa Reitan

Lisa Reitan
President, Board of Education

Bryan Makarius

Bryan Makarius
Vice President, Board of Education

John Galligan

John Galligan, Ed.D.
Trustee, Board of Education

Jennifer Keller

Jennifer Keller
Trustee, Board of Education

Andrea Spaniolas

Andrea Spaniolas
Trustee, Board of Education