

John Carmello
Superintendent of Schools

475 First Street
Troy, New York 12180

(518) 328-5052

February 27, 2017

Re: Fair Funding Letter Campaign

Dear Troy City School District Community,

Once again this year, the Governor's proposed budget includes inequitable and insufficient aid to school districts, especially urban districts like ours, who are more dependent on State Aid. Our proposed Aid increase is less than 1% and, at this point, leaves us with a budget gap of \$2.5 million.

We need your help to advocate for Troy students!

I will be personally meeting with our legislators on March 7th, and I would like to bring with me as many letters from our school community as possible. Attached you will find pre-written advocacy letters addressed to our legislators regarding the funding issue. Please sign the attached (4) letters to make your voice heard. If you would prefer to write your own letter, please feel free to do so. Signature, name and address are required on each letter; however, adding your telephone number and email is optional. All letters should be returned to your school's Main Office by Friday, March 3, 2017.

You may also contact legislators by email and/or phone:

The Honorable Kathleen Marchione
New York State Senate
518-455-2381
marchione@nysenate.gov

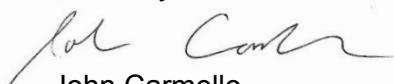
The Honorable Steven McLaughlin
New York State Assembly
518-455-5777
mclaughlins@nyassembly.gov

The Honorable Neil Breslin
New York State Senate
518-455-2225
breslin@nysenate.gov

The Honorable John McDonald
New York State Assembly
518-455-4474
mcdonaldj@nyassembly.gov

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



John Carmello
Superintendent of Schools

February 2017

The Honorable Neil Breslin
New York State Senate
172 State Street Room 414, Capitol
Albany, NY 12247



Dear Senator Breslin:

The students of Troy need your help. As a stakeholder from the Troy City School District, I am writing to ask for you to advocate for the equitable distribution of State Aid.

I thank you for your work in helping to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment in last year's State budget. Now, please uphold the other half of your commitment and see that Foundation Aid becomes fully funded.

The District is still underfunded over \$9 million in Foundation Aid, yet the Governor seems to have ignored this fact in his 2017-2018 Executive budget. The initial State Aid totals proposed by the Governor fall far short of what the District needs to be adequately funded. At only .8 percent, our total Aid increase is less than \$400,000. This, coupled with a .45 percent tax cap, leaves the District with a \$2.5 million gap in its budget, which will mean cuts in staff and programming. The lack of fair funding significantly impacts urban, high-needs school districts like ours, which are more dependent on State Aid. This needs to be immediately addressed, and we are counting on you.

We know that proper funding equates to student success. We have been recently recognized for our 2016 graduation rate of 83%, which is an increase of 7 percentage points, putting us above the overall statewide average and well above that for urban, high-needs districts. I fear that, without your help, the children of Troy will not receive the same opportunities that students in the past have received.

I encourage you to look at the Executive budget proposal and advocate for an increase in overall State Aid, as well as a more equitable distribution of Foundation Aid funding. In our district, without additional funds, meeting the needs of our students will be extremely difficult.

Troy is a district on the rise. We need your help to continue this positive trend. The success of our children depends on it.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name (please print)

Address

Phone/E-mail

February 2017

The Honorable Kathleen A. Marchione
New York State Senate
Room 917, LOB
Albany, NY 12247



Dear Senator Marchione:

The students of Troy need your help. As a stakeholder from the Troy City School District, I am writing to ask for you to advocate for the equitable distribution of State Aid.

I thank you for your work in helping to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment in last year's State budget. Now, please uphold the other half of your commitment and see that Foundation Aid becomes fully funded.

The District is still underfunded over \$9 million in Foundation Aid, yet the Governor seems to have ignored this fact in his 2017-2018 Executive budget. The initial State Aid totals proposed by the Governor fall far short of what the District needs to be adequately funded. At only .8 percent, our total Aid increase is less than \$400,000. This, coupled with a .45 percent tax cap, leaves the District with a \$2.5 million gap in its budget, which will mean cuts in staff and programming. The lack of fair funding significantly impacts urban, high-needs school districts like ours, which are more dependent on State Aid. This needs to be immediately addressed, and we are counting on you.

We know that proper funding equates to student success. We have been recently recognized for our 2016 graduation rate of 83%, which is an increase of 7 percentage points, putting us above the overall statewide average and well above that for urban, high-needs districts. I fear that, without your help, the children of Troy will not receive the same opportunities that students in the past have received.

I encourage you to look at the Executive budget proposal and advocate for an increase in overall State Aid, as well as a more equitable distribution of Foundation Aid funding. In our district, without additional funds, meeting the needs of our students will be extremely difficult.

Troy is a district on the rise. We need your help to continue this positive trend. The success of our children depends on it.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name (please print)

Address

Phone/E-mail

February 2017

The Honorable John McDonald
New York State Assembly
LOB 417
Albany, NY 12248



Dear Assemblyman McDonald:

The students of Troy need your help. As a stakeholder from the Troy City School District, I am writing to ask for you to advocate for the equitable distribution of State Aid.

I thank you for your work in helping to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment in last year's State budget. Now, please uphold the other half of your commitment and see that Foundation Aid becomes fully funded.

The District is still underfunded over \$9 million in Foundation Aid, yet the Governor seems to have ignored this fact in his 2017-2018 Executive budget. The initial State Aid totals proposed by the Governor fall far short of what the District needs to be adequately funded. At only .8 percent, our total Aid increase is less than \$400,000. This, coupled with a .45 percent tax cap, leaves the District with a \$2.5 million gap in its budget, which will mean cuts in staff and programming. The lack of fair funding significantly impacts urban, high-needs school districts like ours, which are more dependent on State Aid. This needs to be immediately addressed, and we are counting on you.

We know that proper funding equates to student success. We have been recently recognized for our 2016 graduation rate of 83%, which is an increase of 7 percentage points, putting us above the overall statewide average and well above that for urban, high-needs districts. I fear that, without your help, the children of Troy will not receive the same opportunities that students in the past have received.

I encourage you to look at the Executive budget proposal and advocate for an increase in overall State Aid, as well as a more equitable distribution of Foundation Aid funding. In our district, without additional funds, meeting the needs of our students will be extremely difficult.

Troy is a district on the rise. We need your help to continue this positive trend. The success of our children depends on it.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name (please print)

Address

Phone/E-mail

February 2017

The Honorable Steven McLaughlin
New York State Assembly
LOB 533
Albany, NY 12248



Dear Assemblyman McLaughlin:

The students of Troy need your help. As a stakeholder from the Troy City School District, I am writing to ask for you to advocate for the equitable distribution of State Aid.

I thank you for your work in helping to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment in last year's State budget. Now, please uphold the other half of your commitment and see that Foundation Aid becomes fully funded.

The District is still underfunded over \$9 million in Foundation Aid, yet the Governor seems to have ignored this fact in his 2017-2018 Executive budget. The initial State Aid totals proposed by the Governor fall far short of what the District needs to be adequately funded. At only .8 percent, our total Aid increase is less than \$400,000. This, coupled with a .45 percent tax cap, leaves the District with a \$2.5 million gap in its budget, which will mean cuts in staff and programming. The lack of fair funding significantly impacts urban, high-needs school districts like ours, which are more dependent on State Aid. This needs to be immediately addressed, and we are counting on you.

We know that proper funding equates to student success. We have been recently recognized for our 2016 graduation rate of 83%, which is an increase of 7 percentage points, putting us above the overall statewide average and well above that for urban, high-needs districts. I fear that, without your help, the children of Troy will not receive the same opportunities that students in the past have received.

I encourage you to look at the Executive budget proposal and advocate for an increase in overall State Aid, as well as a more equitable distribution of Foundation Aid funding. In our district, without additional funds, meeting the needs of our students will be extremely difficult.

Troy is a district on the rise. We need your help to continue this positive trend. The success of our children depends on it.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name (please print)

Address

Phone/E-mail