

Cuts to New York State's Foundation Aid will have significant negative impacts on most districts but as small pre-K-8 school with dwindling enrollments, it would be catastrophic. Last year's initial proposed cuts to our district's foundation aid was almost \$200,000. The aid was reduced to amounts that were awarded in 2016, almost a decade ago! This would have meant substantial cuts to our district.

Here are several ways these cuts affect our district:

1. Reduced Educational Programs and Services

- **Fewer Staff Members:** With less funding, our district may need to reduce the number of teachers, aides, and support staff, leading to larger class sizes and less individualized attention for students. We have already moved to having only one section in our pre-k through 2nd-grade classrooms.
- **Elimination of Programs:** Special programs, such as art, music, physical education, and extracurricular activities, might be cut, reducing the breadth of education and opportunities for student engagement.

2. Impact on Early Childhood Education

- **Pre-K Programs:** Pre-K programs are crucial for early childhood development. Funding cuts could lead to fewer slots available for students, reduced program hours, or lower-quality offerings. It may lead to the elimination of the program altogether.
- **Intervention Services:** Early intervention services for students with special needs might be reduced or eliminated, delaying critical support that helps these students succeed later in school.

3. Resource Constraints

- **Instructional Materials:** Our school already struggles to afford updated textbooks, technology, and other instructional materials, which are essential for providing a modern and comprehensive education. A cut in aid would make matters worse.
- **Facility Maintenance:** Maintenance and upgrades to school facilities may be postponed, leading to deteriorating conditions that can affect the learning environment.

4. Safety and Wellness Deficits

- Since it would not be possible for us to cut any more teaching positions than we have at this point we would have to cut our new school resource officer and new social worker position leaving the district vulnerable to safety issues as well as mental health issues for our students and families.

PLEASE DO NOT cut funding from small schools with low enrolments such as ours!