



# Colton-Pierrepoint Central School

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To Whom It May Concern:

As an educator with over twenty-five years of experience, I have observed the vital role that public education plays in the North Country region of Northern New York. The area's stunning landscapes and natural environment contribute significantly to our community identity; however, they also present challenges in terms of limited economic opportunities and the distance between our communities. Our region is home to a population that is deeply committed to ensuring the best outcomes for their children, families, and the broader community, as well as for the state of New York.

We acknowledge the significant decline in our regional population over the past two decades, accompanied by an increase in the needs of those who remain. Nevertheless, we remain steadfast in our belief in the power of public education, which continues to produce remarkable individuals who contribute positively to our communities and beyond.

Foundation aid is essential for the sustainability of educational institutions in the North Country. The unique topography and remoteness of our region create specific challenges for our students. In the Colton-Pierrepoint district, we have consistently approached and been at the tax cap since its implementation. This, combined with our foundation aid, has enabled us to effectively serve our students. The potential for revenue generation to cover operating costs is limited as expenses continue to rise. Notably, we are one of the few districts in our county to have experienced growth in student enrollment over the past two decades. State funding supports us in maintaining existing programs while adapting them to meet the evolving needs of our students. While our offerings may not match the breadth and depth available in more affluent areas, we still cultivate students who possess the skills and work ethic to thrive in competitive environments. We seek to minimize expenses where feasible, consider the burden on taxpayers, and engage in shared services where applicable.

We hope that the new funding formula will take into account our commitment to student success and the economic challenges faced by our region. Though we may be perceived as land-rich, there is a significant disparity between land wealth and the average earnings of our community members. We aspire for our region to be recognized as a crucial component of New York State's public education system, as it has historically been.

Thank you for your commitment to addressing the needs of the North Country and the entirety of New York State.

Sincerely,

  
James Nee

*"The Colton-Pierrepoint Central School Community proudly educates students to become responsible, respectful, and resourceful citizens, thereby continuing a tradition of innovation and excellence!"*

**James Nee**  
Superintendent  
Of Schools

**Jennifer McKinley**  
Building Principal

**Heather Rousell**  
Director of  
Pupil Services

**Nickolas Brouillette**  
School  
Business Manager