

# Miller Place Union Free School District

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## **Sent VIA Email**

June 24, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Reimagining Education

Dear Honorable Governor Cuomo,

As Board of Education Trustees and Superintendent of Schools for the Miller Place Union Free School District, we are writing you to express our utmost concerns regarding your intent to “reimagine” education post-pandemic, through a collaboration with The Gates Foundation. We ask that you expand your consultations in “reimagining” education to include working professionals in the education field, such as administrators and teachers that have a front-line perspective and can offer invaluable insight, experience and systemic thinking to the process. We also ask that you keep face-to-face teaching and learning at the forefront when determining how to enhance our students’ successes and trajectories through K-12 education.

Educating children extends far beyond a subject matter. The relationship between our students and teachers and the out-of-classroom experiences we afford them are what remind our students that they are part of something larger than themselves. The daily in-person interactions between teachers and students, and between students and students, are what helps our children mold into global citizens and become our leaders of tomorrow. There is no technology or remote learning that can adequately accomplish this. Technology must continue to be used as a supplemental resource, and not as a replacement for in-person instruction.

We acknowledge that this pandemic has made us aware of areas within the K-12 educational system that need improvement. We agree that technology is a powerful learning tool in our classrooms. However, it is just that, a tool and not a replacement for the most valuable learning tool, a teacher. We strongly believe that any new policy or change that would undermine the relationship between teachers and students or undercut the insight and value of our educational professionals would be highly detrimental to the education of our children.

In addition, we ask that you remain mindful of the financial strain of any further unfunded mandates as they pertain to distance learning plans to “reimagine” education, whether it is in consultation with The Gates

Foundation or others. We ask that you restore funding to our schools to help keep them running efficiently, improve programs and to ensure the future improvements we seek to make.

Thank you for your anticipated understanding that we need to continue to prioritize the in-classroom experience with any re-imagining of the K-12 educational experience.

Respectfully,  
Miller Place Union Free School District Board of Education

*Johanna Testa*

Johanna Testa  
President

*Richard Panico*

Richard Panico  
Vice President

*Noelle Dunlop*

Noelle Dunlop  
Trustee

*Keith Frank*

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*Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano*

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Superintendent of Schools