

Miller Place Union Free School District

7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, New York 11764-2036
Telephone: (631) 474-2700 Extension 722 Fax: (631) 474-0686

Board of Education

Johanna Testa, President
Richard Panico, Vice President
Noelle Dunlop, Trustee
Keith Frank, Trustee
Lisa Reitan, Trustee

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
Deputy Superintendent
Seth A. Lipshie
Assistant Superintendent
Susan G. Craddock
**Executive Director for
Educational Services**
Sandra A. Wojnowski

April 28, 2020

Congressman Lee Zeldin (via fax)
Senator Charles Schumer (via fax)
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (via fax)

Re: Federal Aid to New York State

Dear Elected Official:

I hope this communication finds you and your loved ones safe and in good health. As the Superintendent of Schools for the Miller Place Union Free School District, I am writing you to express my concern for my District and all New York State school districts.

While the devastating effect of COVID-19 has impacted all our lives, it has had an unprecedented and overwhelming negative financial impact on New York State - specifically Suffolk County, New York. I share a grave concern with my colleagues and residents that our students' education will be adversely impacted if New York State does not receive substantial federal support to assist in recovery, as we will be forced to make drastic cuts upon our return to school. The 20% reduction in state aid to school districts that Governor Cuomo has publicly discussed would amount to millions of dollars of lost revenue for our district.

A substantial revenue reduction of this nature would be catastrophic to our programs, our ability to meet the instructional and non-instructional needs of our students, and virtually decimate much needed social and emotional resources for our students as they return to their new normal after suffering from the imposed isolation during a pandemic.

In this time of uncertainty and instability I am confident that you will continue to financially support public education as you wholeheartedly understand the immense gravity if New York State does not receive federal assistance quickly and substantially.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of our students, understanding of our community, and partnership in education. I remain confident that together we can find solutions even during an international health crisis.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
Superintendent of Schools

Copy: Governor Andrew Cuomo (via e-mail)
Senator Kenneth P. LaValle (via e-mail)
Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo (via e-mail)
Miller Place UFSD Board of Education