



# MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION

## OPPOSE EXECUTIVE BUDGET SCHOOL AID CUTS

Schools, educators, and school-related professionals do incredible things for the children they serve each and every day. And it is the state's responsibility to support them. Sadly, the recently introduced NYS Executive Budget does not do that.

At a time when our students struggle with food insecurity and poverty, heightened need for mental health support, increased need for academic intervention, and needed supports for migrant students, students with disabilities, homeless students, English Language Learners, and ALL children, **this Executive Budget cuts expected school aid.**

We continue to applaud the legislature, Education Commissioner Rosa, the State Education Department, and the Board of Regents for their commitment to our children and their schools.

**Highly alarming, the Executive Budget shockingly cuts expected school aid by more than \$400 million in two ways:**

1. The Executive Budget **stops the "Save Harmless" provision**, which continues funding for school districts who may have a slight decline in student enrollment, and funds them at least at their current school aid levels. **This cut affects nearly 400 school districts and amounts to more than \$150 million;** and
2. The Executive Budget **changes the Foundation Aid formula, by changing the way the inflationary measure is calculated** – moving to an arbitrary and capricious averaging of 10 years (2014-2023) of inflationary (Consumer Price Index) numbers, excluding the highest and lowest years. **This cut is more than \$300 million** to our schools.

NYS PTA strongly opposes this school aid proposal:

- This proposal will cause irreparable harm to some of our most vulnerable students
- This proposal devalues children, and the work educators do each day to support them
- This proposal erases the possibility of giving students the support they need to succeed

Sadly, we thought we didn't have to fight for equality, equity, and fair education funding any longer. Alas, in looking at the school aid runs generated from these cuts, nothing could be further from the truth. **Worse yet, when analyzing Foundation Aid Cuts, High Needs School Districts carry 50% of the share of the statewide cut.**

**Tell Governor Hochul you SUPPORT our children, educators and schools!**



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