

Dear Senator

I am a **(resident, parent, etc.)** of **XXX** School District. As the 2018-19 State Budget is in final negotiations, I am writing to express **my strong support for the Senate's plan to increase Foundation Aid funding beyond the Governor's proposal and reject the Governor's proposal to place a two percent cap on annual increases to BOCES, Building and Transportation Aid starting in the 2019-20 state budget.** These aids are especially important to schools in our region.

The increase in Foundation Aid funding proposed by the Governor is grossly insufficient to meet the needs of the schools in your district and across the state. **Research done by all of the state's major public education advocacy groups, as well as the Regents, agree that at least \$1.5 Billion in new Foundation Aid must be included in this year's state budget. Based on this reality, I ask that the Senate do all it can to add additional Foundation Aid funding to help further close this gap.**

The long history of gross inequity that has plagued the Foundation Aid distribution formula has never fully served the needs of our impoverished and less wealthy districts as they rely more heavily on this funding source for their operational needs. Therefore, **it is vital that the Senate advocates for an improved Foundation Aid formula that provides equity, adequacy, predictability and sustainability for our school districts!**

(BRIEFLY, feel free to add specifics of how the lack of a predictable and equitable aid formula has disadvantaged your students. Example: "Our district is no longer able to offer AP programs.")

This year's state budget is critical for the students in my school district, as well as for my entire community. We need you to keep fighting hard for the concerns of your constituents.

Thank you.