The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

January 23, 2024

Dear Governor Hochul:

We are writing to express our concern about the reduction in Foundation Aid in your budget proposal for next year. As the Board of Education of the Long Beach City School District, we have been informed that the proposal would reduce Foundation Aid to Long Beach by more than $4.3 million dollars this year, with additional cuts likely in subsequent years. This would have a devastating effect on our district’s programs, and would negatively affect the more than 3,500 students who attend our district schools; nearly 30% of those students live below NYS poverty thresholds.

While we understand the need to make budget adjustments in difficult economic situations, this cut disproportionately affects our district in comparison to neighboring ones, and in fact, to most around the State. These cuts were proposed with no warning and no ability for the district to plan for such a dramatic cut in revenue. Our district, as do most, tries hard to run as efficiently as possible, and respects the State Property Cap as a way to keep taxpayer costs down. We implore you to reverse this cut, and to phase in any subsequent cuts with more notice and transparency.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dennis Ryan, Ph.D.  
President

Sam Pinto  
Vice President

Nora Bellsey  
Trustee

Alexis Pace  
Trustee

Anne Conway  
Trustee

Jennifer Gallagher, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools