Urgent! Advocate for full restoration of NYS Foundation Aid for Long Beach Public Schools!

What is happening?
Under the initial budget proposal from Governor Hochul, our district would lose $4.3 million dollars in foundation aid next year, the same year in which our federal COVID relief funds end. Long Beach would be the recipient of the second highest cut in aid in the entire state! This cut in aid would have a catastrophic effect on district students, resulting in potential program cuts, layoffs to staff, and/or the closing of an elementary school. We do not want to cut programs for students or increase the burden on taxpayers, so restoration of these cuts is essential.

What can we do?
Write, email, call!

Please cut and paste the text below into the body of any texts or emails. If you have time, call! The list of government representatives who need to hear your voices is below.

Script for advocacy letter, emails, and calls:

We are writing to express our concern about the reduction in Foundation Aid in the Governor’s budget proposal for next year. As residents of the Long Beach City School District, we have been informed by district leaders 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 vote against this cut, and to encourage the State to phase in any subsequent cuts with more notice and transparency.

Addresses, emails, and phone of government officials:

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224
1-518-474-8390
Email here: https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form
Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
Legislative Office Building, Room 415
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: 518-455-2400
canzoneri@nysenate.gov

Assemblymember Ari Brown
Legislative Office Building, Room 544
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-3028
browna@nyassembly.gov

Assemblymember Michael Benedetto
Chair of Education Committee
Legislative Office Building 836
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5296
benedettom@nyassembly.gov

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie
Legislative Office Building 932
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-3791
speaker@nyassembly.gov

Senator Shelley Mayer
Chair of Education Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 509
Albany, NY 12247
518-455-2031
smayer@nysenate.gov

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins
188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 907
Albany, NY 12247
(518) 455-2585
scousins@nysenate.gov