

Paul E. Manzo  
Superintendent of Schools



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January 25, 2024

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

Dear Governor Hochul,

We hope this letter finds you well. As the Superintendent of the East Islip School District and members of the East Islip School District Board of Education, we are writing to express our deep concern and disappointment regarding the recently proposed state aid reduction to our district. This reduction of \$3.3 million, or 11.3%, will have a significant impact on our ability to provide a high-quality education to our students.

The East Islip School District has always been committed to excellence in education. We have a resolute team of teachers and staff who work tirelessly to ensure that our students receive the best possible education. However, the recently proposed state aid reduction will force us to make tough decisions that will negatively impact our students' learning experience.

The proposed state aid reduction will have a detrimental effect on our academic, sports and extracurricular programs. This reduction will limit our ability to provide support services to students who need them the most. While we have enhanced our Pupil Personnel Services staff to better support our students Social and Emotional Learning, this reduction will be a step backwards.

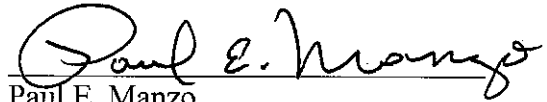
Governor Hochul, we understand the challenges of managing a state budget and the need for fiscal responsibility. However, a decrease in state aid like the one being proposed, cannot be offset with an increase in property tax, unless a district and community are willing to exceed the property tax cap as imposed by New York State. While reserve spending may be considered as one-time funding to offset this loss, reserves would be quickly depleted, especially when you anticipate a similar decrease in state aid for the 2025/26 school year. We urge you to reconsider the proposed state aid cut to the East Islip School District. We are deeply concerned with the proposed elimination of Save Harmless and the adjustment to the Inflation Factor, which clearly aims to reduce Foundation Aid. Our students deserve a quality education that prepares them for success in the future. This state aid cut will hinder our ability to provide that education and will place our students at a disadvantage.

We kindly request that you allocate additional funding to the East Islip School District to be able to maintain the programs and services that will be affected by the proposed state aid cut. Investing in education is an investment in the future of our community and our state. By providing our students with the resources they need, we can ensure that they have the best possible outcomes.

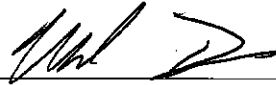
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We look forward to your support in addressing the proposed state aid cut and working together to provide a quality education for our students.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Manzo  
*Superintendent of Schools*



Michael Dorgan  
*Board of Education President*



Stephen Ruland  
*Board of Education Vice President*



Jessica Ciampi  
*Board of Education Trustee*



Timothy Sassone  
*Board of Education Trustee*



Christopher Zachry  
*Board of Education Trustee*

PEM:db

cc: NYS Congressman Andrew Garbarino  
NYS Senator Alexis Weik  
NYS Assemblyman Jarett Gandolfo