



New York State School Boards Association

Better School Boards Lead to Better Student Performance

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November 19, 2020

The Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senator
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Schumer,

The New York State School Boards Association thanks you for your continued efforts on behalf of the students and school districts of New York State. As our country transitions to a new session of Congress and presidential administration in January 2021, NYSSBA would like to reiterate the strong desire of our member school districts for immediate action on the passage of a robust stimulus package.

It is well understood that 2020 has been an exceedingly difficult year for all Americans, and the fiscal outlook for 2021 remains bleak. Statewide, school districts are facing the threat of a nearly \$6 billion cut in aid, despite the increased expenses incurred during the pandemic. These unprecedented cuts would mean financial calamity for students and the potential for mass layoffs of district staff. Such layoffs would mean further economic hardship for countless families, and would have a catastrophic impact on a generation of students. The only realistic remedy for these dire fiscal conditions is swift federal action.

While we appreciate the assistance provided in last spring's CARES Act, these funds are not nearly enough to offset the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on schools. School districts across the country will still require over \$200 billion just to weather the storm. It is imperative that Congress act now to prevent districts from being unable to provide the essential services students depend upon.

It is our sincere hope that you will impel your colleagues and the new administration to provide this urgently critical aid as soon as possible. Our children can no longer afford any delay. You have always been a friend to our schools, and we know you will work hard to provide our schools and students what they need. Thank you once again for your efforts on behalf of our state. If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Governmental Relations at (518) 783-0200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian C. Fessler".

Brian C. Fessler
Director of Governmental Relations