

# Please **Stand** Up for Education



## Call on our elected officials and demand equitable school funding now!

### Facts

#### Why you should stand up for education and demand equitable school funding:

- The Schenectady City School District receives 55 percent of the Foundation Aid that formula dictates and is shorted \$62 million each year.
- If we don't get our fair share of school aid, district activities, programs and services may be at-risk.
- Some schools receive more than 100 percent of their aid while others, like Schenectady, receive levels well below the amount deemed adequate.
- Schenectady has a Combined Wealth Ratio of .386 which is significantly below average.
- New York State schools with a non-white majority, like Schenectady, are disparately impacted and discriminated against.
- The Schenectady City School District struggles with a staggering financial deficit that has persisted for years. The district has been forced to make cuts and close budget gaps totaling more than \$25 million since 2011.
- The children of Schenectady are being starved of necessary resources.
- Schenectady residents are burdened with an elevated tax rate.

### Our elected officials

The following officials were elected to represent us:

#### Governor

The Honorable  
Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12223  
Phone: 518-474-8390

#### Senators

Senator Hugh T. Farley  
LOB 711  
Albany, NY 12248  
Phone: 518-455-2181  
Email: [Farley@nysenate.gov](mailto:Farley@nysenate.gov)  
Facebook.com/hugh.farley5

Senator George Amedore  
LOB 802  
Albany, NY 12247  
518-455-2350

#### Assemblymen

Angelo Santabarbara  
LOB 829A  
Albany, NY 12248  
Phone: 518-455-5197  
Email: [santabarbartaa@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:santabarbartaa@assembly.state.ny.us)  
Twitter: @asantabarbara

Phil Steck  
LOB 820  
Albany, NY 12248  
Phone: 518-455-5931  
Email: [steckp@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:steckp@assembly.state.ny.us)

### How can we force change?

You can force change by **standing** up for education and letting our elected representatives know that the children of Schenectady can't wait any longer.

- Our elected officials, including the Governor of New York, state senators and assemblymen, represent you and the residents and students of Schenectady.
- Our elected officials play a role in the implementation of school Foundation Aid. They were elected to represent us and it should be a priority for them to ensure equity for the students of Schenectady.
- Ask our elected officials to stand up for the education of Schenectady's children and to pledge to end discriminatory funding practices and ensure equity in school funding.

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## Important Points

- The Schenectady City School District has had to make significant changes and cuts over the last several years in order to balance budgets.
- The district is not receiving the level of funding that is mandated by law to ensure that the students of Schenectady receive a sound, basic education.
- Schenectady is significantly shortchanged, while other districts across the state are receiving higher levels of funding.
- A school district that is majority non-white is ten times more likely to be underfunded than a district that is predominately white.
- If Schenectady received the statewide median level of funding at 82% (compared the current 55%), the educational landscape would change dramatically.

### **If Schenectady received 82% of the funding that the district should be receiving:**

- **We would increase and provide the much needed services and interventions that students in Schenectady need to be educationally successful;**
- **Budget conversations would be focused around the programs, resources and services we can offer to meet student need instead of how to cut millions of dollars more in order to close a another gap and balance a budget;**
- **The city of Schenectady school tax rate would be significantly reduced.**

## The Time is Now

Timing is important. We must move with urgency to influence the Governor and other state leaders.

NYS uses an Executive budget model in which the Executive is responsible for developing and preparing a balanced budget which the Legislature modifies and enacts into law.

The Governor is required by the State Constitution to seek and coordinate requests from agencies of state government, develop a complete plan (balanced budget) and submit the budget to the Legislature along with bills and other legislation.

### **January**

Typically mid-January, the Governor submits his Executive budget to the Legislature

### **January – March**

Legislative Action

The Legislature, through fiscal committees, analyzes the spending proposals.

### **March**

Executive, Senate and Assembly proposals are released. The Governor must approve or disapprove.

Based on the Legislature's proposal, projected state aid amounts are released to school districts based upon NYS Budget.

## Work to Do

- Write a personal letter to your elected representative.
- Ask others to write a letter.
- Call our elected representatives in Albany and schedule a face-to-face meeting at their office.
- Write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper. Also send the letter to your elected representative.
- Organize a letter-writing campaign.
- Use social media to spread the word.  
Post your photo and demands at #WeCantWait

