

Your name:
Your address:
Address line 2:
Your email:
Your phone:

Date:

Dear _____,

The Peekskill City School District continues to be challenged in our educational efforts because of inequitable state aid. We need a financially sustainable future and the means to fulfill the promise of an equitable education to our children. We ask that New York State commit to a firm plan and establish an appropriate timeline to fully phase-in these funds in accordance with the current Foundation Aid formula.

At this time, New York State has failed to provide over \$4 billion in Foundation Aid payments to school districts in NYS. Peekskill City Schools are entitled to their fair share of this aid! As-is, the Governor's Executive Budget does not allow us to fulfill our promise of an equitable education for our children. Peekskill's proposed 2019-20 Foundation Aid allocation has been short changed \$15,300,401. This number increases to \$73,226,362 cumulatively owed since the inception of the formula in 2007. The state needs to show they understand the urgency of this situation.

Additionally, the Governor's Executive Budget now proposes to merge 11 major expense-based aid categories into a new aid category entitled "Services Aid." Elimination of expenditure based aid will severely impact school district's revenue stream. This means that itemized aids, such as aid for BOCES, Special Education and Transportation, will be consolidated under one category, which risks specific needs and appropriate reimbursements becoming blurred, or worse, entirely overlooked and inadequately funded.

Furthermore, the Governor's Executive Budget proposes a new tier of Building Aid for 2020-21 that **reduces** a 10% incentive previously provided to school districts for future projects. The loss of this 10% incentive would then be used to support the future funding for Foundation Aid increases. This redistribution of funds would only be an illusion of increased aid, as Foundation Aid would only be increased by the monies lost to the Service Aid consolidation.

The Foundation Aid conversation has dragged on far too long with no acceptable solution in sight. We need to prioritize a plan for equitable NYS school aid and turn the conversation to how to phase-in and fully fund the Foundation Aid formula, *without* creating a new formula to re-distribute funds within school districts.

Peekskill deserves the right to an equivalent and sound education for all students. As noted in the January, 2014 report on Inequality in NY School Funding, "The quality of a child's education should not be a function of where that child resides." Please help to STOP these proposed actions!

Sincerely,
