

Email Response from Senator Amedore

Dear Mary,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding funding for education. I appreciate your contact as it is letters such as yours that better enable me to make informed decisions on your behalf.

As we tackle the many fiscal challenges associated with the 2011-12 State Budget, many issues have come to light; one of the most harmful is the inequity found in cuts in education aid allotted to Upstate New York school districts. Upstate districts face a disadvantage when compared to wealthier districts in the Westchester, New York City and Long Island regions. The current state formula rewards school districts that have spent generously on programs, amenities, personnel and administrators through unconscionably high property taxes approved by voters.

The 105th district cannot afford these astronomical tax increases, especially when we are already seeing citizens taxed out of their homes. Without major changes in the distribution of state aid to our local districts, the results could be disastrous. I am determined to make our real needs known and not let the number crunchers in Albany destroy our schools.

I have also attached a recent legislative column that further outlines my position on this issue. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

George Amedore
Member of Assembly
105th District

Original Email

First, I would like to thank you for your work for the people of New York State. Secondly, I would like to express my concern over the proposed budget cuts to education. I realize New York is in an extremely difficult financial situation. I am not asking for the state to come up with more money that it does not have. I am asking for the state to scrutinize and change the formula for Foundation Aid given to districts across the state.

The way the formula currently works, the majority of the money is distributed to schools downstate, especially Suffix and Nassau counties. The formula needs to be refigured to allow for a more equitable distribution of funds for all districts in the state.

As it stands right now, Capital District schools stand to loose an enormous amount of aid that will have devastating effects on our schools and, ultimately, our children. If these cuts take effect, our schools will face losses that will be felt for years to come.

As a parent and educator, I want the best for my own children and ALL children across the state of New York. With the ever increasing demands to perform and meet standards, we need to do all we can to help our students, not take more from them. Students do not have a say in the process, so we must be their voice. Please let your voice be heard in the Assembly to change the formula for Foundation Aid so that upstate New York does not suffer more. As a taxpayer, I know cuts are inevitable, but for some districts to lose so much more due to this unbalanced configuration of aid disbursement seems unfair and unnecessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Mary LaPort