

Yonkers Council of PTA/PTSAs

April 17, 2018



The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

In March, 2018 the Yonkers Council of PTA/PTSAs wrote to you expressing its support for the Board of Regent's request for an increase in education funding. The Board called for continuing to phase in Foundation Aid, a \$1.6 billion increase in Foundation Aid and statutory reimbursement-based aids and to support English Language Learners, Career and Technical Education programs and Universal Pre-Kindergarten Programs.

While there was additional aid designated for the Yonkers Public Schools through the advocacy of our local delegation, it is not enough. The Yonkers Public Schools is now considering almost 211 layoffs for the 2018/2019 school year and it can increase to if no more revenues are received.

All the accomplishments made by our students including the improved graduation rates and improvements in NYS assessment scores are in danger! The strides that our district has made these past few years to bring the necessary programs back to our students are in jeopardy!

The budget cuts being proposed by the Yonkers Public Schools (YPS) would further diminish pupil support services and create safety issues for our children by decreasing the number of bus monitors. We cannot afford to lose staff and teachers assistants who support our students on a daily basis. **This is inequitable!**

The City of Yonkers and YPS BOE work every day to ensure the best education possible. **An additional increase in state budget funding to YPS is necessary NOW.**

From a parent's perspective time is of the essence and parents cannot wait yet another year for essential and substantial improvements. We urge you and all other elected officials to understand the urgency, the time restrictions and current morale. We ask that you consider allocating additional funding based on these educational priorities. Public school education is a clear long lasting investment and must be funded accordingly.

We need your help Governor. Our Children Deserve Better!

Sincerely,
Sally Pinto
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Yonkers Council of PTA/PTSA

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Assembly Member Shelley Mayer
Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie
Assembly Member Cathy Nolan
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