



BOCES United Professionals
BOCES II United Professionals
Brighton TA
Brockport TA
Canandaigua TA
Churchville Chili EA
East Irondequoit TA
East Rochester TA
Fairport EA
Gates Chili TA
Greece TA
Hilton Central Schools TA
Holley TA
Honeoye Falls-Lima EA
Monroe Community College FA
Penfield EA
Pittsford District TA
Rochester TA
Rush-Henrietta EA (Teacher Chapter)
Spencerport TA
UUP – SUNY Brockport Chapter
Victor TA
Webster TA
West Irondequoit TA
Wheatland-Chili FT

Union Place • 30 N. Union Street, Suite 302
Rochester, New York 14607

March 20, 2024

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

As the collective union leaders of 25 school districts in Monroe County and the immediate surrounding areas, we want to thank you for the work that you do for our state. We are proud to have some of the best schools in the country here in New York, and your support has a good deal to do with that. We continue to appreciate your efforts and your listening ears. With that said, we also want to express both our concern and our frustration with the initial outlook for this year’s budget. Just a year ago, it seemed that everyone was celebrating the state fulfilling its long-time promise to deliver Foundation Aid dollars to local school districts in its entirety. Imagine our surprise when, just one year later, the Executive’s Proposed Budget falls over \$400 million short of that same promise.

School districts in our region are impacted by both the changes to the CPI and the adjustment of the Save Harmless provision. If the final budget does not restore that money, the resulting impact on our area schools would total in the tens of millions of dollars. This was money that was allocated a year ago and it is money that was being counted on in this year’s budget cycle. We call on you to do the right thing and deliver on the state’s promise once again.

We can all agree that these are complex times. School districts are wrestling with increases to minimum wage, the oncoming shift to electric bussing, unprecedented inflation, and staffing shortages that threaten to upend our ability to function properly. As each year goes by, the financial burden on local districts gets even greater and the importance of schools to our local communities is only magnified. The state must do all that it can to help districts put forward budgets that can support students, incentivize and retain staff, and continue to serve as community centers on which so many of our state’s families depend.

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We urge you once again to do the right thing and restore the aid that was celebrated just a year ago. Thank you for your time and your continued support. We would always welcome the opportunity to host you at one of our monthly meetings to collaboratively discuss solutions to the many challenges that we face.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dwayne Cerbone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dwayne Cerbone, President, MCFT
Submitted on behalf of the Monroe County
Federation of Teachers

cc: Senator Samra Brouk
Senator Jeremy Cooney
Senator Pamela Helming
Senator Robert Ort
Assemblymember Harry Bronson
Assemblymember Sarah Clark
Assemblymember Josh Jensen
Assemblymember Jen Lunsford
Assemblymember Demond Meeks

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