

BACKGROUND:

- **Absence of Federal action since enactment of the FY 2021 budget: NYS DOB (Division of Budget) began withholding 20% of most local aid payments in June**
 - **all or a portion of these withholds may be converted to permanent reductions, depending on the size and timing of new Federal aid, if any.**

- In July, DOB began approving General Support for Public Schools (GSPS) payments to school districts (including 3609-a General Aid, 3609-b Excess Cost Aid, and 3609-d BOCES Aid payments) at 80% of the otherwise scheduled amounts.
 - \$324 Million dollars held back
 - Cuts do not affect Foundation Aid (which could still be impacted without federal bailouts)
 - DOB’s Updated Financial Plan includes \$8.2 billion in recurring local aid reductions
 - late in the second quarter of the State’s FY 2021 will be the earliest DOB expects to transmit a detailed aid-to-localities reduction plan to the Legislature
 - in the absence of unrestricted Federal aid, DOB will continue to withhold a range of payments through the second quarter of FY 2021

READ THIS:

- Buffalo News (9/10): Local reps concerned about lack of action in Fed Gov (https://buffalonews.com/news/local/hopes-for-state-local-aid-dim-as-congress-sinks-deeper-into-disagreement/article_8deecf94-f2a9-11ea-b66b-3fcd9cb563b2.html)

- Buffalo News (8/20): The \$2 trillion CARES Act, passed by Congress and signed by President Trump in late March, allocated \$150 billion to local governments as part of the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
 - \$160.3 million was earmarked for Erie County
 - Erie County will allocate \$15.2 million of its federal CARES Act stimulus money to offset school reopening costs related to the Covid-19 health crisis.
- Secretary DeVos looking to tie subsidizing private school tuition to aid package: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2020/09/04/senate-republican-coronavirus-bill/>
- Alliance for Quality Education: even with 20% cut in state aid, school districts will still be mandated to pay 100 percent of tuition for publicly funded, privately run

charter schools (<https://www.aqeny.org/2020/09/09/ny-public-schools-mandated-to-pay-charter-tuition-in-full-even-as-they-face-20-cuts/>)

- The full white paper brief can be found here: http://www.aqeny.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/AQE_Charter_whitepaper.pdf
- Spectrum News (<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/capital-region/news/2020/09/09/educators--advocates-calling-on-state-to-restore-funding>)
 - Educators and advocates are calling on Gov. Cuomo and state lawmakers to restore the 20 percent across-the-board cuts in state aid to school districts. NYSUT says it's preparing for potential, "legal action," if necessary
 - Many laid-off educators and advocates are speaking out about how the cuts are "equal but not equitable," because some schools in low-income districts rely on more state aid than others, saying the cuts disproportionately affect Black, Brown and immigrant students in those districts

BOTTOM LINE:

- NYSUT and other organizers are asking people to advocate with **State reps** to restore full funding
- State says hands are tied if the Federal Government does not approve a spending package.
- Heroes Act was passed in May by Democratic lead House and would provide 34.4 Billion Dollars over 2 years
- Proposed Republican lead Senate government spending package is more conservative

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Email, call and *send letters* to your elected reps!!

- **Priority one:** Contact Federal Reps to let them know we need a government spending package that would protect our public school students by ensuring the proposed 20% hold back by the State does not become a permanent reduction.
- **Priority two:** Contact Your State Reps to let them know the impact of lost aid to your district (this should be specific to your district)

WHO ARE YOUR REPS?

State Rep summary can be found here: <https://bit.ly/ECASBnysreps>

Federal Reps:

Congressman Brian Higgins - 26 (D)

Suite 601
726 Exchange Street
Buffalo, NY 14210
(716) 852.3501

Districts:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| ▪ Amherst | ▪ Grand Island |
| ▪ Buffalo | ▪ Ken-Ton |
| ▪ Cheektowaga Central | ▪ Lackawanna |
| ▪ Cheektowaga- Sloan | ▪ Lancaster |
| ▪ Maryvale | ▪ Orchard Park |
| ▪ Clarence | ▪ Sweet Home |
| ▪ Cleveland Hill | ▪ Tonawanda |
| ▪ Depew | ▪ West Seneca |
| | ▪ Williamsville |

Congressman Chris Jacobs - 27 (R)

8203 Main Street
Suite 2
Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 634.2324

Districts

- | | |
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| ▪ Akron | ▪ Iroquois |
| ▪ Alden | ▪ Lackawanna |
| ▪ Buffalo | ▪ Lake Shore |
| ▪ Clarence | ▪ Lancaster |
| ▪ Depew | ▪ North Collins |
| ▪ East Aurora | ▪ Orchard Park |
| ▪ Eden | ▪ Springville-Gl |
| ▪ Frontier | ▪ West Seneca |
| ▪ Gowanda | ▪ Williamsville |
| ▪ Hamburg | |

All Districts:

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand - (D)

726 Exchange Street
Suite 511
Buffalo, NY 14210
716.854.9731

Senator Charles Schumer - (D)

130 South Elmwood Ave
Suite 660
Buffalo, NY 14202
716.846.4113