

# LONGWOOD CENTRAL SCHOOLS

35 YAPHANK-MIDDLE ISLAND ROAD, MIDDLE ISLAND, NEW YORK 11953-2373

631 345-2795 Fax 631 345-0144

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Superintendent of Schools

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August 27, 2020

Dear Community Members:

We hope this correspondence finds you and your family safe and healthy. Our community has responded to the Covid-19 pandemic by taking care of one another, and we are grateful to each of you, and our teachers and staff for their tireless efforts. Longwood pride, spirit, and heart remains strong.

New York State has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the state is facing drastic revenue shortfalls affecting fiscal stability. The Board of Education has been notified that 20% of our State Aid has been withheld for the month of August. The State Division of Budgeting has indicated that the withholdings are not actual cuts at this time, and that the portion withheld may still be sent to districts, but they also stated that these withholdings would continue and could become permanent reductions if the federal government does not provide sufficient additional funding.

We are writing to ask for your support in our advocacy efforts regarding state aid recently held back by the state. While it has not been determined if this is permanent or temporary withholding of funds, the impact of this decision is tremendous.

Below is an advocacy letter for you to copy and send to your state and federal representatives asking them to take immediate action in advocating for financial relief from the Federal government to ensure that Longwood can continue to meet students' needs and support public education.

Please copy the message attached to this letter and send to your representatives at the email addresses listed below. In addition, we have provided a link to the Network for Public Education for your use as well. Finally, we are also requesting residents make phone calls to their state representatives as well; phone numbers are provided below. Please stay safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

Penelope Blizzard-McGrath  
President

Rhonda Stitham  
Vice President

Paul Infranco

Victoria Molloy

Daniel Tomaszewski

William Massian

Christina Brown

/Imp

**PLEASE COPY AND PASTE THE BELOW LETTER TO SEND TO STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES TO REQUEST THEIR ADVOCACY FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR LONGWOOD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Congressman Lee Zeldin**  
Phone: (631) 289-1097  
Email: [CongressmanZeldin1@mail.house.gov](mailto:CongressmanZeldin1@mail.house.gov).

**Senator Kenneth Lavalle**  
Phone: (631) 473-1461  
Email: [LaValle@nysenate.gov](mailto:LaValle@nysenate.gov)

**Senator Monica Martinez**  
Phone: (631) 360-3356  
Email: [Martinez@nysenate.gov](mailto:Martinez@nysenate.gov)

**Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo**  
Phone: (631) 727-0204  
Email: [Palumboa@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Palumboa@nyassembly.gov)

**Assemblyman Joe DeStefano**  
Phone: (631) 207-0072  
Email: [Destefanoj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Destefanoj@nyassembly.gov)

**Assemblyman Steve Englebright**  
Phone: (631) 751-3094  
Email: [Englebrights@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Englebrights@nyassembly.gov)

Dear Senator/Congressman/Assemblyman/Woman \_\_\_\_\_,

I am a concerned community member residing in the Longwood Central School District in Suffolk County, New York. Governor Cuomo recently withheld 20% of our state aid right in the midst of our reopening our schools. Our high needs district faces added financial burdens (both operational and instructional) in the coming year due to the Covid-19 reopening requirements issued by New York State officials and we just learned 20% of our state aid has been withheld for the month of August. The impact of this could be disastrous for our community and we need your assistance.

I am urgently requesting you to fight for additional Federal funding to be earmarked for public schools and appropriated via an act of representatives in New York State to support K-12 public education in our state.

Thank you for your continued support of our children and our public schools during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Your Name, Your Address

Your City, State, Zip

Your Phone Number

In addition, please use this link to send a quick message to your representatives: [https://actionnetwork.org/letters/urgent-governor-cuomo-abandons-new-yorks-children-aid-to-schools-must-be-restored/?link\\_id=0&can\\_id=aab55f5c874266bbcc72a2db9cd0ab2a&source=email-urgent-20&email\\_referrer=email\\_896420&email\\_subject=urgent-governor-cuomo-abandons-new-yorks-children-restore-school-funding-now&fbclid=IwAR0AxxgippaKdrPxxNTfHrbzT70nIKHJTDXMhyQdDa6e43CxBO3w-jbcTfSw](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/urgent-governor-cuomo-abandons-new-yorks-children-aid-to-schools-must-be-restored/?link_id=0&can_id=aab55f5c874266bbcc72a2db9cd0ab2a&source=email-urgent-20&email_referrer=email_896420&email_subject=urgent-governor-cuomo-abandons-new-yorks-children-restore-school-funding-now&fbclid=IwAR0AxxgippaKdrPxxNTfHrbzT70nIKHJTDXMhyQdDa6e43CxBO3w-jbcTfSw)