



STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY



KEVIN PARKER  
21st State Senate District

CATHERINE NOLAN  
37th State Assembly District

KARIM CAMARA  
43rd State Assembly District

January 10th, 2014

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Governor  
The Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write to express our urgent concerns about the state of primary and secondary education in New York. Quite simply we are not fulfilling the Campaign for Fiscal Equity commitment for school districts throughout New York State. In fact, we are \$5.3 billion behind on our CFE commitment, which does not take into consideration the \$1.6 billion Gap Elimination Adjustment that was developed to deal with the 2008 financial crisis. According to groups like The Alliance for Quality Education (AQE), seventy-one percent of school districts currently receive less state aid than they did in 2008-09 (ninety-three percent excluding building aid).

We are grateful for the funding increases included in the past two budgets, but they have not kept up with rising costs. This was not enough to prevent additional classroom cuts across the state. We know you understand the need for the Empire State to invest adequately in our children's future, and how important it is to improve schools and reduce the achievement gap that exists across this state, in rural communities, suburban areas, and cities large and small.

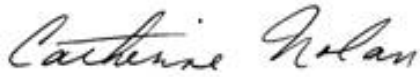
In the past five years, schools across New York State have been forced to make classroom cuts. Class sizes have soared, leaving students in overcrowded classrooms—sometimes in excess of 30 students in elementary classrooms. Concurrently, the quality of the curriculum has diminished, with cuts to: art, music, advanced placement courses, foreign languages, career and technical education, and more. Tutoring to help students who have fallen behind and summer school have both been reduced, as have seats for pre-K and Kindergarten. Student supports in the form of guidance counselors, social

workers, and librarians have all been cut back. If we continue to disinvest in our children and their schools, we will be sacrificing the economic future of our state and the well-being of our children and families.

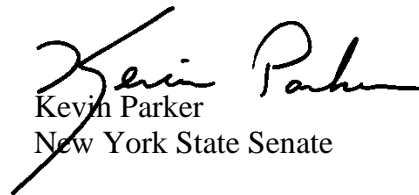
As you prepare your budget proposal, we respectfully request that you include a substantial increase in education funding. Our schools need \$1.9 billion in additional aid, distributed in an equitable formula, to overcome the cuts of prior years and prepare our students for the global economy. Like you, we support educational accountability, and we want to make sure that our schools have the resources they need to meet their goals.

We look forward to collaborating with you on the 2014-15 state budget, and to working together to ensure that the best interests of New York's students are fully met.

Respectfully yours,



Catherine Nolan  
New York State Assembly



Kevin Parker  
New York State Senate



Karim Camara  
New York State Assembly

The following legislators join us in signing on to this letter:

Assemblymember Thomas Abinanti  
Assemblymember Didi Barrett  
Assemblymember Michael Benedetto  
Assemblymember James Brennan  
Assemblymember Anthony Brindisi  
Assemblymember Harry Bronson  
Assemblymember Kevin Cahill  
Assemblymember Barbara Clark  
Assemblymember William Colton  
Assemblymember Marcos Crespo  
Assemblymember Michael Cusick  
Assemblymember Steven Cymbrowitz  
Assemblymember Michael DenDekker  
Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz  
Assemblymember Steve Englebright  
Assemblymember Patricia Fahy  
Assemblymember Philip Goldfeder  
Assemblymember Richard Gottfried

Senator Joseph Addabbo  
Senator Tony Avella  
Senator Neil Breslin  
Senator Martin Dilan  
Senator Adriano Espaillat  
Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson  
Senator Brad Hoylman  
Senator Timothy Kennedy  
Senator Elizabeth Krueger  
Senator Velmanette Montgomery  
Senator Jose Peralta  
Senator William Perkins  
Senator Gustavo Rivera  
Senator John Sampson  
Senator James Sanders  
Senator Jose Serrano  
Senator Toby Ann Stavisky  
Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk

Assemblymember Aileen Gunther  
Assemblymember Carl Heastie  
Assemblymember Rhoda Jacobs  
Assemblymember Ellen Jaffee  
Assemblymember Michael Kearns  
Assemblymember Ron Kim  
Assemblymember Micah Kellner  
Assemblymember Joseph Lentol  
Assemblymember Barbara Lifton  
Assemblymember Donna Lupardo  
Assemblymember William Magnarelli  
Assemblymember Margaret Markey  
Assemblymember Shelley Mayer  
Assemblymember John McDonald  
Assemblymember Michael Miller  
Assemblymember Joan Millman  
Assemblymember Walter Mosley  
Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell  
Assemblymember Felix Ortiz  
Assemblymember Steven Otis  
Assemblymember Amy Paulin  
Assemblymember Crystal Peoples-Stokes  
Assemblymember Nick Perry  
Assemblymember Philip Ramos  
Assemblymember Samuel Roberts  
Assemblymember Robert Rodriguez  
Assemblymember Gabriela Rosa  
Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal  
Assemblymember Nily Rozic  
Assemblymember Addie Russell  
Assemblymember William Scarborough  
Assemblymember Michelle Schimel  
Assemblymember Luis Sepulveda  
Assemblymember Aravella Simotas  
Assemblymember Frank Skartados  
Assemblymember James Skoufis  
Assemblymember Michaelle Solages  
Assemblymember Phil Steck  
Assemblymember Albert Stirpe  
Assemblymember Robert Sweeney  
Assemblymember Matthew Titone  
Assemblymember Helene Weinstein  
Assemblymember David Weprin