

# Protect Students, Not Billionaires

*New York State is expecting to receive a large amount of federal funding from the most recent relief package (Dec. 2019). Thanks to U.S. Senator Schumer, New York State will receive \$4 billion for K-12 public education- but due to Governor Cuomo's proposed cuts, schools would only receive \$2.1 billion.*

## **Stop Governor Cuomo From Taking Federal Funding Intended for Students & Schools:**

- The legislature must stop Governor Cuomo's \$1.3 billion proposed cut to state aid to schools. This is the second time Governor Cuomo is trying take away federal funding that was intended for New York's students.
- While Cuomo is busy blaming the federal government, he is ignoring the growing needs of students' right here in New York. Governor Cuomo calls for accountability from Washington while ignoring his own responsibility to New York's public school students.
- Do not balance the state budget by taking funds from education. It's time to protect students, not billionaires. NY can close the budget gap by raising taxes on the ultra-rich.
- The last time there was cut in state aid to schools during a financial crisis it took NYS 6 years to repay schools and restore their funding levels.

## **Our Schools Need Multi-year & Sustainable Funding:**

- The Federal stimulus money provides a single boost to schools for 1 year. In order for districts to expand programs and services they need sustainable funding every year.
- School districts need a commitment from NYS legislators that our schools will continue to be funded when the federal stimulus money is no longer available.
- Our districts were underfunded prior to the COVID-19, this pandemic has highlighted the vast inequities that existed in our schools.

## **Our Children Need: [Insert Personal Story]**

- Does your child have access to their own laptop at home to engage in remote learning? *Share if your child has to share a laptop with other people in the home or doesn't have a device at all.*
- Does the school issued laptop work? *Share if your child is forced to use outdated equipment.*
- Does your home have a strong internet signal? Are you forced to pay for internet due to remote learning? *Share if your child struggles to participate in online learning due to connectivity issues. Share if paying for internet creates a financial burden)*
- Does your child have and IEP? Are all the requirements on the IEP being met by the school district? *Share if your child is not receiving their mandated services and therapy.*
- How is your child's mental health? *Share if you've noticed your child has been more stressed out due to COVID, online learning or other personal issues.*
- Are you worried about your child's academics (Math, Reading, Writing) *Share any concerns you have around your child's learning*
- Other: Share any challenges you need the school to address ASAP to support your child or children