



Incorporated Village of LLOYD HARBOR

November 2024

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Re: NYS Education Department School District Regionalization Plan

I write to alert you to the latest serious and targeted assault on local control by Governor Hochul's Administration. **The NYS Education Department (NYSED) has launched, on an "emergency basis," a plan to "regionalize" all school districts except the Big Five (NYC, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Yonkers.)** This plan would require all Districts to act by December 6, 2024. No opt-out is provided. This latest attack on local control makes no effort to disguise that it is "government by agency." It is a broad top-down mandate where one size fits all, with no thought given to potentially harmful effects on our district, students and taxpayers.



MAYOR
JEAN M. THATCHER

The CSH School District (Board of Ed & Superintendent Joseph Monastero) has written an excellent letter in very strong opposition to this Plan (see Csh.k12.ny.us and click on "***Please read - opposition to NYSED Regionalization Plan.***") The letter highlights loss of local control; misuse of emergency powers; lack of transparency; rushed timeline and exclusion of "Big 5" school districts. All of this points to a grossly flawed process. It will damage our school district and community by eroding historically successful local control.

Seen through the lens of the resident taxpayer, this is a deliberate attempt to abrogate local control and years of successful investment, both resources and effort, in our schools and community. It is a recipe for disaster in terms of the quality of our school district and related property values. It is outrageous in its lack of transparency as to intent. It is designed to completely over-ride the will of the taxpayers, who fund school districts across Long Island in the amount of 65-75% of their tax load.

This is the fourth instance in three years that we have had to defend against the appalling over-reach of NYS Governor Hochul's administration. Once again, the items that most define any community - type of zoning, housing, and now schools - are under attack. Nothing breeds resentment and distrust of government more than tactics such as this.

The Trustees and I would far rather wish residents a joyous Thanksgiving than have to write one more letter like this - but **your action is needed! Please sign and return the enclosed letter (envelope provided) and Docu-sign the letter on our website: www.lloydharbor.org.**

Thank you for your prompt attention to this very serious matter.



TRUSTEE/
DEPUTY MAYOR
WILLIAM
BURDO



TRUSTEE
LELAND
DEANE



TRUSTEE
JOSEPH
GITTO



TRUSTEE
JENNIFER
HUBBELL



TRUSTEE
GEORGE
PATSIIS



TRUSTEE
MATTHEW
STRUNK

November 2024

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

CC: Dr. Betty Rosa, Commissioner of Education

Dear Governor Hochul:

I (we) write to express our extreme opposition to the New York State Education Department's recent Regionalization Plan and the accompanying Emergency Regulation listed in the September 25, 2024, New York State Register. This plan is not equitable or effective for our school district's specific needs. It lacks transparency and clear detail regarding its rationale and goals.

My (our) major concerns are as follows:

1. **Forced removal of local control:** The loss of local control and the imposition of a "one size fits all" solution will diminish the quality of education that our community has worked long and hard to build.

2. **Vague & undefined plan:** The plan lacks clarity as to how it will improve educational quality, address local challenges, or enhance student opportunities. Without specific goals or metrics for success its true impact is completely uncertain.

3. **Deliberate misuse of Emergency Rulemaking Powers of the NYSED:** This hasty process bypasses proper transparent procedures and local review.

4. **Selective application of Regionalization Plan:** Excluding the Big Five Districts (New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers) from the mandate raises questions about the plan's equity, fairness and true intent.

5. **Undue burden on limited resources:** Forcing districts to gather data for a plan that has yet to be approved diverts valuable resources that could be better used to support our students.

I (we) ask that you respect the desire of your constituents to govern their local school district and other affairs. Mandating a top-down "one size fits all" approach to this, or any other local issues, is doomed to fail and will only breed resentment and distrust on the part of your constituents. I (we) request that you put an immediate end to the Regionalization Plan, which puts our school district's record of excellence and success in jeopardy.

Sincerely yours,

Signature

Signature

Name (Print)

Name (Print)

Address

Address