

LETTER FOR PARENT TO SEND

Dear Governor Cuomo and NY State Legislators,

As a voter, taxpayer and parent, I urge you to repeal the Gap Elimination Adjustment ("GEA"). In 2009, the state used the GEA take money that was due to public schools, to help the state avert an overall budget shortfall, because of the recession at that time. But the shortchanging has continued to reduce school aid every year since, even as the state promotes that it has a budget surplus! This withholding of rightful funds is harming public education, and is shifting an unbearable financial burden onto the local taxpayers.

The GEA has caused my districts to lose millions of dollars over the past several years. At the same time, the state is increasing our school costs by forcing districts to pay for expenditures that school districts have no control over and that schools don't necessarily want. Class sizes are growing; academic, extracurricular and sports programs are being cut back; and rainy-day reserve funds are being exhausted.

Our schools are at a financial breaking point. Restoring our GEA funds is critical to the health of our public schools. Our school children need these debts paid in full now. I am asking you, as our elected representatives, to be our voice in Albany and take effective action. Now is the time to work together to

Eliminate the GEA and Restore Our School Aid!

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.