

SOUTH COLONIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Jonathan W. Buhner
Superintendent of Schools



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Dear South Colonie School Community Members:

As we enter budget planning for the 2018-2019 school year, I wanted to update you on the status of the Governor's budget proposal, as well as the conversations which have taken place with our elected officials in both the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate. Currently South Colonie Central School District is targeted to receive a \$77,692 increase in Foundation Aid. In addition to this minimal increase, additional language currently included in the Governor's proposal would shift future expenses from the state to local tax payers.

While the Governor's Office, the Assembly, and the Senate have all put together individual budget proposals, important negotiations remain before a compromise is reached on the approved New York State Budget. With that shared, in an effort to support our school community, I ask that you consider the following talking points as you communicate with our elected officials:

- Increase Foundation Aid funding well above the Executive's proposal
- Reject the proposed caps on Expense-Based Aids, including Transportation, Building and BOCES Aids
- Supporting emerging student needs, including funding to support English Language Learner Students (ELL), Student Health, Mental Health Services, and School Safety
- Reject any shift of additional Summer Special Education costs from the state to local districts
- Support the creation of a Teachers' Retirement System reserve fund (this is another tool which would assist districts in controlling the local tax levy and improve long term planning)

As expected, the Board of Education and I will continue to advocate for our school community and the services our children need. With that shared, it is even more important that our elected officials hear from you as South Colonie community members and taxpayers.

Please take the opportunity to thank our legislators for their support and encourage their ongoing efforts to provide resources and support to our local schools.

Contact Information

- **Governor Andrew Cuomo**
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Albany, NY 12224 (518) 474-8390
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/contact>

- **Assemblyman Phil Steck**
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- **Senator Neil Breslin**
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Thank you for supporting our public schools.

Sincerely,



Jonathan W. Buhner
Superintendent of Schools