



Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
(631) 382-2006

January 29, 2026

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

Dear Governor Hochul,

As we have shared in the past, our schools are the cornerstone of our community, and their success depends on many factors. For generations, strong school districts have been a major draw for first-time homebuyers who seek to raise a family in a community that values and invests in public education. Our schools have never been asked to do more, and we gladly accept that responsibility. Whether it be the provision of an education to students before and beyond the traditional ages of students in grades K-12, the need for increased school security and mental health supports, technological needs, etc., we have stood ready to accept the challenge knowing that it would help our school community.

That said, in order to sustain Smithtown’s rich legacy of quality public education, we need your immediate assistance and advocacy for the recommendations outlined by the New York State Educational Conference Board (ECB) [HERE](#). The ECB is made up of the New York State School Boards Association, the Association of School Business Officials, the Council of School Superintendents, New York State PTA, the Conference of Big 5 School Districts, New York State United Teachers and the School Administrators Association of New York State. They represent parents, teachers, other school professionals, building administrators, superintendents, and boards of education throughout our state and their goal is to ensure all our school districts can meet the needs of their students, without overburdening their local taxpayers, to fulfill the promise of our State’s Constitution: “...a system of free common schools wherein all the children of this state may be educated.”

Increasing costs and continued, unfunded mandates in a flat revenue environment endanger the future of public education in our state. Simply put, our expenditures are rapidly outpacing our revenues and unsustainable cost drivers coupled with inflationary pressure will force districts to over utilize their reserves to a degree that significantly endangers their long term fiscal stability.

As a policymaker, you have the opportunity to advocate for sensible initiatives to address these concerns in a manner that will better ensure a sustainable future for our district and the other districts you represent. Your leadership and our partnership will be essential so that every one of our students has the opportunity to thrive. We look forward to working with you to see to it that our school systems remain strong and Smithtown continues to be a great place to live and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Mark Secaur, Ed. D.
Superintendent

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BOE President

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BOE Vice President

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