



# Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

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

June 15, 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, public schools are the cornerstones of communities throughout the state. In order to sustain New York's rich legacy of quality public education, we urge you to reject New York's participation in the Educational Choice for Children Act. This legislation establishes a first-of-its-kind national school choice tax credit to incentivize private scholarship donations. In reality, this program functions as a voucher system that uses federal tax dollars to fund private school tuition. While inclusive public schools serve the needs of all students, private schools utilize selective admission policies and are not subject to the same level of accountability or oversight, nor do they have to adhere to the same laws and regulations such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Title IX civil rights protections.

The primary concern is that these voucher programs channel federal tax revenues away from essential public services. By lowering public school funding and reducing student enrollment, these tax credits leave public institutions with fewer resources to sustain vital student programs. On January 29 we sent you a letter that can be accessed [HERE](#). In it, we outlined our concerns regarding the financial stressors that negatively impact our ability to provide essential programs and expanding needs in areas such as school security, mental health supports and academic intervention services.

We are far from alone with our position on this matter. In fact, the New York State Educational Conference Board (ECB) has also called for you to reject New York's participation [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."

Your leadership and our partnership is 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

Matthew Gribbin  
BOE President

Kevin Craine  
BOE Vice President

Emily Cianci  
BOE Trustee

Dana Fritch  
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