



Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

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

November 20, 2024

Dr. Betty A. Rosa
Commissioner of Education
New York State Education Department

Dr. Jeffrey A. Matteson
Senior Deputy Commissioner for Education Policy
New York State Education Department

Dear Dr. Rosa and Dr. Matteson:

Recently, the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association sent a Position Statement to the New York State Education Department on its proposed Regionalization Plan. We echo the sentiments expressed within their document which can be accessed [HERE](#) and urge you to clarify the language in the regulations. Their statement addresses four major issues related to Regionalization: 1) Support for Shared Services and Cost Savings and Relief from Unfunded Mandates, 2) Opposition to Erosion of Local Control, 3) Equitable Resource Allocation and 4) Engagement of Stakeholders in Decision-Making.

The Smithtown Central School District officially endorses the Position Statement issued by the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, and specifically, we would like to draw your attention to the following language from the Statement:

- “We strongly support and believe in maintaining local control,”
- “We strongly urge that we begin the process of addressing the costly unfunded and underfunded mandates imposed on school districts,”
- “We support clarifying language in the regulations to make sure that local school districts have the ability to opt-out of the regionalization plans,” as indicated in the NYSED Regionalization FAQ’s on your website, and
- “It is vital to ensure that shared services do not reduce one district’s resources over another.”

There is a great deal of unease in the field regarding the existing language within the regulations, and while there have been attempts to bring clarity, it is imperative that this is addressed definitively and swiftly.

Sincerely,

Mark Secaur, Ed. D.
Superintendent

Michael Catalanotto
BOE President

Michael Saidens
BOE Vice President

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BOE Trustee

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