



LINK to sign: PETITION to

Members of the New York
State Senate, Members of the
New York State Assembly

Please save public education for
New York's system of community
public schools!!

Petition by New York State Coalition for Local Control

To: Members of the New York State Senate,
Members of the New York State Assembly

CONSOLIDATION IS NOT EDUCATION REFORM: WE CAN DO BETTER

We are New York State voters and taxpayers opposed to Governor Cuomo's proposed multi-year plan to pressure local school districts onto a path toward consolidation into regional or county mega-school districts that would erode the quality and character of the local school districts New Yorkers cherish.

In his proposed Budget now before the Legislature, the Governor has included a multi-year plan intended to penalize school districts and local communities by denying tax rebates if they don't agree to a region-wide consolidation or "shared services" plan that would:

- Eliminate local control powers from elected community school boards, by-pass regional BOCES (Boards of Cooperative Educational Services), and centralize power within the school district with the largest enrollment in their region;
- Demand MILLIONS of dollars of cuts, starving vital education services without requiring any studies of the educational impact of the plan; and
- Fail to deliver any mandate relief as previously promised by the Governor.

The Governor proposes to further punish any school districts that play by the rules of the tax cap, but seek an override for any number of legitimate purposes, by denying tax rebates to their communities.

Honorable legislators, here is a link to Governor Cuomo's devastating consolidate-and-cut proposal – see pages 662-82.

<http://publications.budget.ny.gov/eBudget1415/fy1415artVIIbills/REVENUEArticleVII.pdf>.

The Governor's proposals, which would require no feasibility study if you enact them, would put us on a trajectory toward countywide, impersonal school systems, with significantly reduced funding and an elimination of local control. Governor Cuomo cannot rely on the yet unknown outcome of the various controversial State education "reforms" as a basis for his consolidation proposal. These measures, such as increased emphasis on standardized testing, rapidly rolled out as top-down standardization, remain unproven, expensive, poorly developed, and often unwanted by many varied districts across New York.

We, as New York State voters and taxpayers, are looking to you, our legislators, to oppose this "one-size-fits-all" consolidate-and-cut proposal -- and preserve local control and education programs in our schools.

Sincerely,
[Your name]