

Frederick J Harris  
41 Linden Lane  
Farmingville, NY 11738

February 28, 2013

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
Executive Chamber  
New York State Capitol Bldg.  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing this letter in response to the nearly \$2 million cut in school aid that is currently planned for the Sachem School District. The Sachem community is a very special place and I urge you and the state legislature to reconsider this cut in funding. My wife graduated from Sachem High School in 1988 and there was never any question that we would raise our daughter here because of the quality of the community and the school district.

Ours is not a unique story for this community. As I look at my block alone 50% of the 10 neighbors closest to my house have at least 1 adult Sachem Alumni living in them. These are all people who graduated from Sachem in the 1980's that chose to move back here to raise their families. While this is not an uncommon story for the Sachem community, in my experience this percentage of people returning to a community to raise their families is much higher than you see in other communities.

I want my daughter, who will be entering Sachem East High School next school year, to have the same feeling about this community and school district as my wife and neighbors did when we all chose to raise our families here. I fear that these budget cuts while extreme and detrimental to the school district in the near term will have an even deeper effect on the quality of this community for many years to come.

I again urge you and the state legislature to reconsider this nearly \$2 million cut in state aid and the detrimental effect it will have on our Sachem community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frederick J Harris", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frederick J Harris

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
Executive Chamber  
New York State Capitol Bldg.  
Albany, NY 12224

February 23, 2013

12 Rosemont Ave  
Farmingville, NY 11738

Dear Governor Cuomo,

As the mother of two students in the Sachem School District, I am asking you to give our community the money that will be cut from our state aid back. This news is devastating to the community. My two daughters participate in many clubs that may get cut from our schools. One of my daughters is in eighth grade and the other is in ninth grade. This year both my daughters are participating in drama. They both love it very much and want to continue doing it throughout their school career. Both of my daughters have been involved in drama productions the last couple of years and the plays were wonderful. The scenery was so amazing as well as the quality of the play. If our budget is cut, drama might not exist in the schools next year. They both also participate in chorus and have been members of the Select Chorus and Treble Choir. They will both be heartbroken if these classes are cut from the curriculum.

Sachem is a wonderful community to live in and it would be terrible if we couldn't have the things needed to make our children well rounded individuals. Many things that are being cut are very important to the students as well as teachers. One of my daughter's classes is being cut next year if we do not get this money. The class is called Writing Workshop and this class has made my daughter a better writer. Many of the electives that will be cut help students plan for their future careers and help them get into good colleges. We need this aid to maintain the high level of educational excellence in the Sachem Community.

Thank you for your time reading this letter and I hope you take these things into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Bartol". The signature is fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Mary Bartol

2/23/13

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Hello Mr. Cuomo. I am a student at Sachem East High School. The Sachem community is a wonderful place to have grown up in. Ever since kindergarten I have felt happy and welcomed into the Sachem community. In elementary school I discovered I had a love for music. I would sing all the time and I joined every chorus and band class I could. In elementary school, chorus was before school and then we had band lessons during class. I put all of my effort into music. I continued classes throughout middle school (joining the select choirs also). Now I am in my first year of high school and have taken chorus for 7 years. A couple of weeks ago, I auditioned for the treble choir and I was excepted! If the state cuts 1 million dollars from Sachem schools, then I have no clue what electives I will choose for next year. Also, I participated in the sport teams Sachem has provided us. I was on the softball team for 2 years and I also tried out for volleyball and basketball. There are also tons of clubs provided to us. I am in culinary, Spanish, photography, interact, drama, select choir, and freshman class government. I am very involved in the school. I am in all honors classes and personally, I feel that being involved in school helps keep up the grades.

This year, the state aid that Sachem School District will receive is almost 1 million dollars less than last year and far less than what was expected. We can not lose 1 million dollars in state aid. Without this help, all sports, electives, music classes, art classes, and clubs will be cut from the schools. I feel without these classes and activities to be involved in, students will do worse in school and will not try as hard to partake in activities out of school. The entire Sachem community needs this support. Elementary school students need child care, middle school students need these clubs, and high school students need these classes to get excepted into colleges. It's very hard to get accepted to good colleges with these classes but without these classes on our resumes, we will never be accepted. Colleges like to see students involved in their school and without these activities we won't be involved. As you probably know, Sachem is known for its sports program and art and music departments. Sachem means the world to me. I may go to different colleges and live in different areas but I always

will be a Sachem Student until I die. Thank you for understanding.

Sincerely,

Brianna Bartol