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President Frank Zwack

Board of Education

Vice President Katie Snyder

February 2, 2024

Dear BCSD Community,

On January 16, 2024, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul released School Aid projections for the 2024-25 school year following her Executive Budget presentation. Included in this information were Foundation Aid projections. Foundation Aid makes up a significant portion of revenue for all school districts. For the Berlin Central School District, Foundation Aid was 33% of our revenue (State Aid, as a whole, represented 49% of our revenue). The proposed budget allocates \$7,482,119 in Foundation Aid to the Berlin Central School District, which is a **reduction of \$1,188,464** from year-to-year.

“The unprecedented \$1.2 million in reductions to the Berlin Central School District resulting from the Governor’s drastic proposed changes to the state aid formula, would be catastrophic to our school community. Such a deep cut to a district with already limited fiscal support would undermine the commitment, thoughtfulness and planning Berlin CSD has dedicated to providing our students with 21st century education. The Governor’s inequitable budget proposal would decimate the gains our district has made in providing quality and sustainable opportunities for the children of Berlin, Grafton, Petersburg and Stephentown. This potential travesty, if not rectified, will negatively impact our students, our school, and our community for generations to come,” said Dr. Maureen Long, Berlin Central School District Superintendent.

As it stands, the proposal allocates the Berlin Central School District \$1.2 million LESS than it received last year. Dr. Long has been advocating for more funding for our school community through outreach to elected officials. Senator Jake Ashby’s office [put out a press release](#) that directly mentioned Berlin Central CSD and quoted Superintendent Dr. Maureen Long.

If you would like to get involved in advocating for the District, please reach out to our elected officials by calling or emailing them below.

**Governor Kathy Hochul**

(518) 474-8390, [EMAIL](#)

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>

**Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado**

Phone: 518-402-2292

[EMAIL](mailto:LGNY@exec.ny.gov) <http://LGNY@exec.ny.gov>

**Senator Jacob Ashby**

*NY Senate District 43*

*ALBANY OFFICE*

*Legislative Office Building, Room 517*

*Albany, NY 12247*

Phone: 518-371-2751

Fax: 518-426-6985

[EMAIL](mailto:ashby@nysenate.gov) ashby@nysenate.gov

**Assemblyman Scott Bendett**

*Assembly District 107*

*ALBANY OFFICE*

*LOB 324*

*Albany, NY 12248*

Phone: 518-455-5777

Fax: 518-455-5923

[EMAIL](mailto:bendetts@nyassembly.gov) bendetts@nyassembly.gov

**Senator Shelley Mayer**

Senate Education Chair

ALBANY OFFICE

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Albany, NY 12247

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The district will continue to make pertinent information regarding budget development available on our [Budget Information https://berlincentral.org/district/budget-information/](https://berlincentral.org/district/budget-information/) page of the district's website [www.berlincentral.org](http://www.berlincentral.org). We encourage you to monitor the budget development process, and to advocate on behalf of our district, schools, community, and most importantly our students.

Respectfully,

The Berlin Central School District Board of Education

[boardofeducation@berlincentral.org](mailto:boardofeducation@berlincentral.org)