

Date

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of the State of New York
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor:

It is with great concern and frustration that I am writing to you today on behalf of [your organization] representing the interests of over [number of members in your organization] educators and their students.

OR

It is with great concern and frustration that I am writing to you today as a(n) [educator, parent, supporter of the Arts, etc.].

Over the past several years, we have been both witness to and victim of an unending cycle of unfilled professional positions in the New York State Education Department. As SED staffers retire and resign, we find that they have not been replaced, severely affecting existing services to local schools and educators. New and changing programs and standards that warrant professional guidance have not received additional staffing. We understand that there are many positions at SED that are in approved budgets, yet the waiver approval process in the Governor's Office of the Budget prevents them from being filled.

As a result, the capacity of the SED staff to adequately service the needs of teachers, administrators, and school districts has been severely compromised. More importantly, the limited services available from SED have impacted the quality of education received by the students of New York State.

There is one, lone Arts Curriculum Associate whose capacity to serve the needs of all of the Arts – Music, Visual Art, Media Art, Dance and Theater - has been severely compromised for a very long time. Please be reminded that the position of the Music Curriculum Associate in the Office of Curriculum and Instruction has remained vacant for over twelve years, greatly impeding SED's capacity to provide music discipline-specific advice, direction, and clarification to the 8000+ public school music educators across the state. With new Arts Learning Standards, evolving graduation pathways in The Arts, and the specific citation in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act of Music as an essential part of a well-rounded education, the successful hiring of the Music Curriculum Associate is a must.

We implore you to eliminate the roadblocks in the New York State Division of the Budget and facilitate a fully-funded and functional State Education Department to provide quality education for all students.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Title]

[Your Organization]

p.c. L. Young, Chancellor, NYS Board of Regents
 B. Rosa, NYS Commissioner of Education
 M. Mastroianni, Assistant Secretary for Education
 R. Mujica, Director of the Budget
 S. Mayer, NYS Senate Education Committee Chair, 37th Senate District
 M. Benedetto, NYS Assembly Education Committee Chair, 82nd Assembly District

Addresses:

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