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In the proposed Governor's budget for 2016-17 our local school district, the Rye City School District in Westchester County, has once again been shortchanged.

Now that the state has surplus revenues, end the Gap Elimination Act and restore the funding that has been withheld from the District since 2010. Unfreeze Foundation Aid by reinstating the Foundation Aid formula. These painful cuts came about as a result of the recession of 2008. The recession is over. During Governor Cuomo's re-election bid, he announced the state has a \$2 billion surplus. There is no longer any reason to continue withholding school funding.

Rye, along with every other school district in NY State, is laboring under an allowable growth factor of .12%. All the while employee pension and health care costs and state-mandated program costs far outpace the allowable growth under the tax cap. If we cannot have meaningful mandate or tax cap relief, we must have robust help from the state in the form funding for education.

Rye's Assembly Member, Steve Otis, and our State Senator, George Latimer, have been tireless advocates on behalf of education and the Rye City School District, but they need your support.

I urge you to help New York State live up to its commitment to education by appropriately funding its public schools.

Sincerely,  
[NAME]  
[ADDRESS]