



OSSINING UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Dr. Phyllis Glassman

Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION FOR MANDATE RELIEF

Adopted 22 May 2012

BE IT RESOLVED by the Ossining Union Free School District, that mandate relief must be addressed by the New York State Legislature as school districts implement the property tax levy limit.

WHEREAS, New York State leads the nation in local property taxes, in large part because New York leads the nation in imposing unfunded state mandates upon our local municipalities and school districts; and

WHEREAS, in response to New York's property tax crisis, the Governor and members of the New York State Legislature enacted legislation imposing a limit on the annual growth of the local school tax levy; and

WHEREAS, New York State school districts are under unprecedented funding shortfalls due to three years of frozen Foundation Aid, last year's \$1.2 billion aid cut, expiration of federal stimulus aid, and revenue restrictions under the tax levy limit, which goes into effect for the 2012-13 school year; and

WHEREAS, unfunded and underfunded state mandates continually increase the obligations and expenditures of local public school districts, and a property tax levy limit without significant mandate reform will inescapably lead to drastic cuts in essential local school district programs and services, as well as significant layoffs of school district employees, and in some cases outright insolvency, in New York State school districts; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of satisfying unfunded and underfunded mandates diverts local money from our school district's top priority of student learning;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the members of the Board of Education of the Ossining Union Free School District join fellow school board members in Westchester and Putnam Counties in affirming the obligation of the Governor of the State of New York and the members of the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly to reform mandates that are unsound, unduly burdensome or costly, and thereby lead to high property taxes in New York.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Article 24, Executive Law §666, which establishes a Mandate Relief Council, the Ossining Union Free School District asks, by resolution of its governing body, that the Mandate Relief Council act upon the following requests to determine whether any specific statute, regulation, rule, or order of state government creates any unfunded mandates or is otherwise unsound, unduly burdensome, or costly so as to require that it be eliminated or reformed:



OSSINING UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Complete Review of All Mandates Including Pending, Newly Proposed, and Future Mandates

The Ossining Union Free School District requests reform of unfunded and underfunded New York State mandates with the goals of maintaining a “Children First” philosophy, reducing Ossining School District expenditures, and easing the tax burden of our community residents.

The Board of Education of the Ossining Union Free School District requests that a continued review of unfunded and underfunded mandates be conducted at the State level with the expectation of modification, reduction, and potential elimination of such mandates and the expectation of additional New York State funding to support those unfunded and underfunded mandates that remain, following a complete review and analysis.

The Ossining School District Board of Education also requests a complete freeze as well as review of any and all currently pending or newly proposed mandates. Additionally, prior to the adoption of any proposed or new mandate, the Ossining School District Board of Education requests a complete and comprehensive analysis of all costs and all definitive funding sources with the expectation that input from the Ossining School District will be considered in order to ensure that any proposed or new mandate will not produce onerous consequences for the Ossining Union Free District and that any proposed or new mandate will not be unsound.

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