

Social Services

**Committees:**

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THE SENATE  
**STATE OF NEW YORK**



**JAMES N. TEDISCO**  
**Senator, 49th District**

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**District Office:**  
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**To:** Senate Colleagues  
**From:** The Office of Senator James N. Tedisco  
**Re:** Budget Letter for Foundation Aid  
**Date:** February 28, 2017

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Please see the attached letter which is a request for Foundation Aid formula support in the 2017-2018 New York State Budget.

If you would like to sign onto this letter, please e-mail Jonathan Pirro, Director of Policy, in my office by Friday, March 3, 2017 via e-mail: [pirro@nysenate.gov](mailto:pirro@nysenate.gov). E-Signatures are not required. Thank you for your consideration.

**Sample Message (all that is required to sign on):**

- Dear Jonathan, Senator \_\_\_\_\_ would like to sign onto the Foundation Aid letter to the Leader.

**What your Senator's signature will look like:**

- Senator James N. Tedisco  
49<sup>th</sup> Senate District

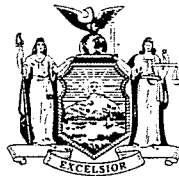


Chairman  
Social Services

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February 28, 2017

Hon. John J. Flanagan  
Temporary President and Majority Leader  
Room 330 CAP  
Albany, NY 12247

The undersigned Senate colleagues and I would like to respectfully request your support for a renewed commitment to address the issue with the State's Foundation Aid formula. We need a State budget that **follows the recommendations of the New York State Board of Regents by fully phasing-in Foundation Aid over three years, including \$1.47 billion in new Foundation Aid this year.** The Foundation Aid formula is the fairest funding formula that exists in New York State, as it distributes funds to school districts based on student need, and not regions, zip codes or real estate values.

Past failure to live up to the Foundation Aid commitment has left students in overcrowded classrooms with limited access to art, music, sports and college readiness courses, and has caused cutbacks in guidance counselors, social workers and library services. This negatively affects all types of schools, particularly our high need schools, across upstate and suburban New York.

It was crucial that, last year, we successfully resolved the Gap Elimination Adjustment. Now we must prioritize Foundation Aid inequity, which has gone unaddressed for ten years. Schenectady, Gloversville and other such statewide school districts are perfect examples of underserved areas. That is why I believe this year's Executive Budget fails to address the needs of all of our school districts, particularly those in our high-need, low-wealth communities.

Leader, we believe the Foundation Aid formula recognizes the needs of children living in poverty and communities without resources. If we invest in our children and give them the resources they need to succeed, we will strengthen our communities by supporting them as they develop into young citizens.

Sincerely,

James N. Tedisco  
49<sup>th</sup> Senate District