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## **NYS Superintendents Council reacts to Governor's Proposal for a Superintendent Salary Cap**

Governor Cuomo's proposal to cap superintendent salaries would undermine the capacity of schools to adjust to the new economic realities he says they must face.

School systems need strong and resourceful leaders as superintendents now more than ever. Strong leaders are needed to make difficult changes, for example, by renegotiating labor agreements, persuading residents to explore consolidation with another districts, finding other innovative ways to save money, and working with parents, staff, and board members to arrive at the best possible budgets for the students and taxpayers they serve.

As it is now, school districts have found it increasingly difficult to get candidates to take on the job of superintendent. A cap would make it much harder.

Superintendent salaries in New York State are on par with the average for the nation, despite our state's higher than average cost of living and overall education costs. Last year, the average superintendent salary in New York State was \$163,000. The average nationally was \$160,000.

The Governor had to make hard choices in putting together his proposed state budget and we respect that.

However, this proposal is a distraction from the difficulties his budget would now cause for schools and the students they serve.

The Administration estimates the proposal would save school districts \$15 million. The proposed cut in School Aid is \$1.5 billion, the largest ever recommended by a Governor. In fact, all central office spending by all districts does not match the size of the proposed cut in state aid to schools.

Superintendents must do what state officials do – put together budgets that balance needs against resources, in our case, balancing what students need and what taxpayers can afford. In the weeks ahead we will continue to advocate for a state budget that helps our schools strike the best balance possible.

Robert Reidy  
Executive Director  
New York State Council of School Superintendents

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