

YOUR LETTERHEAD

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany New York, 12224

Date here, 2012

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I write to inform you, and our legislators, about the status of our Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) plan. We have yet to submit our APPR plan for evaluating teachers and principals to the State Education Department (SED), as we are still in negotiations with our collective bargaining units.

School Superintendents were not at the table negotiating the new APPR law, but are charged with its implementation. While we have concerns about many facets of the new law, including timeline for implementation, superintendents across the state are dedicated to carrying out the law and ensuring our students receive the state aid they so desperately need.

Our District leadership is diligently working with our teachers and principals to craft an evaluation plan that intends to produce better learning for students.

[Discuss specifics about your district here. How are negotiations going? How long is it taking you? What do you have to concede to get agreement? This should be the meat of the letter, but the letter should consist of only 2 pages in total].

Under state law, if our plans are not approved by the State Education Department by January 17, 2013, we would lose the increase in state aid we are due to receive through this year's budget.

My colleagues and I in _____ ***[District Name]*** _____ are collectively working to put together sound APPR plans for our district and we hope to meet this deadline. But we will not know for certain until negotiations are concluded. Further, if we are able to submit our plan on time but it is rejected by SED, we may not have enough time to make necessary revisions and gain approval by the deadline. Worse yet, if we are able to submit our plan but SED fails to review in time, we will lose our aid despite our District's hard work. The mid-year cut in state aid we would suffer would have a devastating impact on our schools. Students should not be harmed because local leaders cannot reach agreements or state officials cannot meet deadlines.

Sincerely,

Your name here
Superintendent of Schools
Your District here

Cc: Senator _____
Member of Assembly _____

