

Senator Malcolm A. Smith
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building 909
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Smith,

As a resident of the East Ramapo Central School District, in Rockland County, I am extremely concerned about the lack of a fair share of State funding for education in my district.

East Ramapo is the only district in Rockland County that has been designated as "high needs, low resource" and falls under "Save Harmless." We serve a high percentage of private school students who are not accounted for in the state aid formula and also have a very high percentage of families at or near the poverty level. The current formula does not appropriately take these facts into account. Due to the lack of appropriate state aid, our district has been forced to put before the voters a budget that is only slightly above last year's budget and has cuts in several areas, including cutting 88 staff positions and the closing of one of our schools.

East Ramapo serves a diverse, multicultural population, with unique needs. They deserve the same opportunities as students who reside in other communities in this county.

We need your help and ask you to support **Senate Bill S 5333** which would make a correction in the state aid formula and would offer more permanent relief to our district.

I thank you in advance for your support and urge the State to provide for the needs of our students.

Sincerely,

_____ Date _____
Signature

Print Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____