

An Urgent Message from the Sachem Legislative Committee

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are, as a community, in a **crisis**. In an attempt to balance the New York State budget Governor Paterson has proposed midyear budget reduction for all New York State school districts. While we think the Governor's plan is well intentioned, we think the Governor's plan is flawed and will **unfairly penalize the students and taxpayers of Sachem**.

If the Governor's plan is executed, it would have severe consequences to Sachem Schools. A state aid reduction is much more significant in a district like ours since we rely so heavily on our state aid revenues. Indeed, in Governor Paterson's proposal, many affluent areas may receive a greater percentage reduction in their state aid than Sachem; however, since these districts receive less than 10% of their revenues from state aid the overall impact on the wealthier communities is far less. As it is currently proposed, Sachem is projected to lose **7%** of our state aid (**\$7,205,359**) or close **to 3%** of our total budget. Wealthier districts, such as Port Jefferson, will lose less than 1% of their total budget. In our opinion, the Governor's proposal needs to be adjusted to be fairer to middle class communities like ours.

The Sachem Legislative committee needs your support to send a clear message to our Senators and Assembly people that the proposed plan is unfair and should be reworked to come up with one that spreads this burden equitably. While we understand we must pay our fair share, we cannot afford to shoulder the burden for wealthier districts. You can find a sample letter and a listing of all the state contacts on the Sachem website – www.Sachem.edu. We urge you to do this as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, the Board of Education and the school staff will begin to make contingency plans to deal with potential reductions. If the Governor's proposal is accepted, it will undoubtedly impact programs, opportunities, and services in Sachem

Sincerely,

The Sachem Legislative Committee - legislative@sachem.edu

Sal Nicosia – Chair, Jon Siegel – Board of Ed Committee Rep, Sal Tripi – Board of Ed Committee Rep.