

Sachem Central School District at Holbrook

November 13, 2008

Dear Sachem Friends,

In today's *Newsday*, reporter John Hildebrand describes Governor Paterson's proposed midyear budget reduction for all New York State school districts. Unfortunately, this would have severe consequences to Sachem Schools because 43% of our school budget comes directly from state aid. Admittedly, a state aid reduction is much more significant in a district like Sachem 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, these districts receive less than 10% of their revenues in state aid. From my perspective, the reductions are not fair, especially since our district has been lauded the past few years for responsible budgeting. In simplest terms:

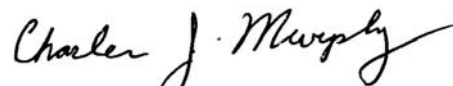
Sachem – 7% of 43% state aid
Very affluent – 10% of 5% state aid

Sadly, our students will feel the impact of this proposal much more than other Long Island school districts. Equally upsetting, our school district has just recently recovered from the budget failure of four years ago where we reduced the expenditures by more than \$12 million. Nevertheless, this is a big challenge set before us and with your continued support and understanding we will overcome this obstacle.

In short, we will need to wait a few weeks to see if the NYS Assembly and Senate support the Governor's proposal. 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 for this school year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to write or call me – cmurphy@sachem.edu or 471-1336.

Very truly yours,



Charles Murphy, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

CJM:baw