

CLARENCE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 3, 2016

The Honorable Jane Corwin

142nd Assembly District

LOB 721

Albany, NY 12248

RE: Delink APPR and School Aid

Dear Assemblywoman Corwin,

As the NYS budget process closes in on the final stages, I strongly urge you to support the Assembly's budget proposal to disconnect increases in state aid from compliance with APPR.

An acceptable alternative would be to authorize the following:

- Districts to evaluate educators under approved 3012-c plans or approved 3012-d plans, at local option through collective bargaining, until the end of the 2018-19 school year.
- Districts to receive state aid increases in each year so long as they are implementing evaluations under an approved plan.
- Districts that have approved 3012-d plans to revert to a 3012-c compliant plan, at local option through collective bargaining.

Adoption of these amendments would allow school districts to avoid another forced shift and potentially contentious approval process while state education policy makers consider next steps. At the same time, these amendments would respect the efforts made by those districts that have already made the transition to 3012-d and ensure that districts get the aid increases they need to best serve their students.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey M. Hicks, Ed.D.

Superintendent