

"Inequities in State Aid"

Schenectady City School District

Advocate for our children

Civil Rights Complaint

Schenectady Superintendent Larry Spring filed a Civil Rights Complaint with the United States Department of Justice in July 2014. The complaint argues that the funding structure implemented by New York State has resulted in *de facto* discrimination.

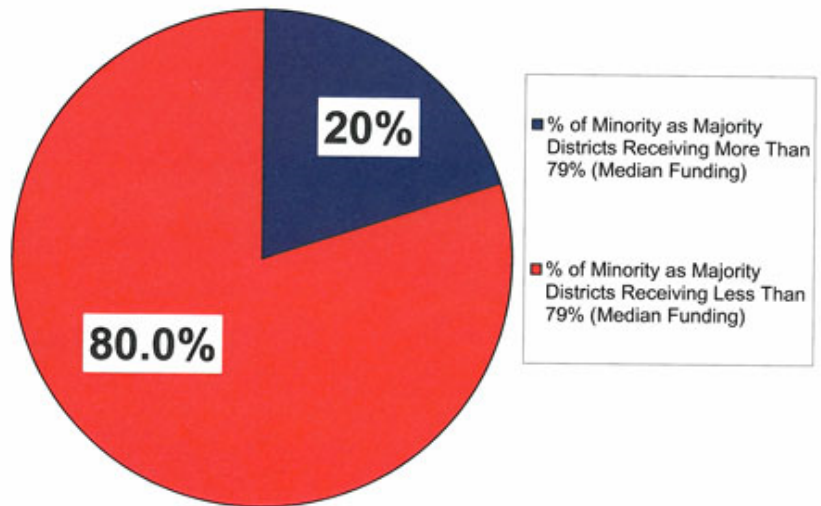
Data shows that New York State distributes school aid in a way that gives school districts with more non-white students a lower percentage of school aid than what is prescribed by law and especially when compared to school districts with a majority of white students. Different treatment of students based on race is a violation of Federal law.

The complaint requests that the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, Educational Opportunities Section fully investigate the claim, correct the violations of law and order appropriate relief.

Facts

- School Districts with higher concentrations of non-white students are systemically underfunded. The whiter a school district's student population, the more likely it is to receive full or close to full funding. New York State's current methods for distributing education aid have a discriminatory impact on non-white students.
- Districts that are predominantly non-white comprise 32.4 percent of all the districts funded at a low rate of 50-59 percent. Eighty percent of majority non-white districts are receiving less than the median level of funding.

How "Minority As The Majority" Districts Fare In The Funding Formula



Since 2009, the Schenectady City School District has been forced to make staff and program cuts, changes in operation and use reserves to close consecutive gaps totaling nearly \$40 million. The residents of Schenectady continue to struggle with increased property taxes.

Please write to your elected officials and demand change.

- The Schenectady City School District is one of the poorest districts in New York State and receives only 55 percent of the Foundation Aid that it should be receiving by law. The children of Schenectady are shortchanged more than \$60 million annually
- Schenectady is among a short list of school districts receiving the lowest percentage of Foundation Aid in the state. The *median* level of funding across New York State is 82 percent. If Schenectady was funded at the median level, the district would receive nearly \$40 million more in aid.

Contacting Your Legislators

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Senator Hugh T. Farley
LOB 711
Albany, NY 12248
Phone: 518-455-2181
Farley@nysenate.gov
Facebook.com/hugh.farley5

Senator John J. Flanagan
LOB 805
Albany, NY 12248
Phone: 518-455-2071
Fax: 518-426-6904

Senator John A. DeFrancisco
416 Capitol
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: 518-455-3511

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
LOB907
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: 518-455-2585

Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk
LOB 311
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: 518-455-2470

Assemblyman Sheldon Silver
LOB 932
Albany, NY 12248

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara
LOB 829A
Albany, NY 12248
Phone: 518-455-5197
santabarbaraa@assembly.state.ny.us
Twitter: @asantabarbara

Assemblyman Phil Steck
LOB 820
Albany, NY 12248
Phone: 518-455-5931
steckp@assembly.state.ny.us

Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan
LOB 836
Albany, NY 12248
Phone: 518-455-4851

Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
LOB 923
Albany, NY 12248
Phone: 518-455-5491