



260 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11225

Voice: 718-636-4573
VP: 347-227-0891
Fax: 718-636-4577
school@sfdesales.org
sfdesales.org
Follow us at @sfdesales

February 13, 2023

Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor, New York State
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

As Board members of St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf, a member of the 4201 Schools Association, we respectfully request your support for the eleven (11) schools authorized by statute to provide education to deaf, blind, and severely physically disabled children.

St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf (SFDS) is located in Brooklyn. SFDS offers a Parent Infant Program (Ages 0-3), an Early Childhood Program (Ages 3-5) and a School Age Program (Grades K-8). Students attending SFDS are Deaf, DeafBlind, and Deaf with multiple & complex disabilities. We serve students from all 5 boroughs of NYC.

As Board members, we each have a fiduciary responsibility to our school. The practice of continuing the state's investment in growth allows us to make the necessary investments in our teachers and clinicians, knowing that these expenses will be supported year after year. We cannot appropriately budget and plan if our funding is at risk annually. We are concerned that the Executive Budget decision to discontinue the additional support provided in the 2022-23 enacted budget, will result in a \$2 million cut to our schools.

We hope that you will reconsider the reduction in funding and restore the \$2 million appropriation for the 4201 schools in the 30-day amendment process. Thank you for your consideration and we would welcome you or your team on our campus to meet our dedicated staff and talented students.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Maria Hartman
Maria Hartman, Ph.D. - Board President

DocuSigned by:
Amber Joy Martin
Amber Joy Martin, Ph.D. - Board Vice-President

DocuSigned by:
Thomas Kelly
Thomas Kelly - Board Treasurer

DocuSigned by:
Robert Tuite
Robert Tuite - Board Secretary

DocuSigned by:
Lorena Ugras
Lorena Ugras - Board Member

DocuSigned by:
Mamie Fairchild
Mamie Fairchild - Board Member

DocuSigned by:
Chris Woodfill
Chris Woodfill - Board Member

DocuSigned by:
David Ugras
David Ugras - Board Member