

# LEXINGTON

SCHOOL & CENTER FOR THE DEAF

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February 13, 2023

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

Dear Governor Hochul:

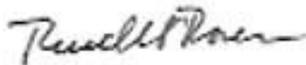
As board president of the Lexington School for the Deaf, a member of the 4201 Schools Association, I respectfully request your support for the eleven (11) schools authorized by statute to provide education to deaf, blind, and severely physically disabled children.

Lexington School for the Deaf serves approximately 250 profoundly deaf students, with 97% of students residing within the five NYC boroughs and the remaining 3% residing in Nassau and Westchester counties. Our school serves a diverse student population that is 50% Latino, 19% Asian, 19% African-American, 6% Caucasian, and 6% multi-racial. Our families speak over 26 home languages and over 81% of students come from low-income households. We serve many families who moved to New York because their home countries did not have schools with educational programs for deaf children.

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.

I 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,



Russell S. Rosen, Ph.D.  
Board President