

Dear Fillmore Central School Parents,

We are writing to provide you with facts about Governor Cuomo's educational proposals and what they mean for your Fillmore Central School student. As you can see below we have outlined the Governor's proposals, the realities of what is currently happening in New York State public schools today, and what the Governor's proposals mean for Fillmore Central School.

Governor Cuomo's Misguided Education Plan	Realities	Implications in Fillmore
Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School funding is being held until the Governor's education reform agenda is passed. • Increased funds for preschool and technology education. • \$20,000 merit pay to teachers legitimately rated highly effective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School districts do not have preliminary information about state aid for the 15-16 school year. • The competitive process to receive money for full day preschool and Smart School (technology money) has not been given to school districts—no money. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 2009, public school state aid was cut 9 billion. Public schools are calling for 2 billion to be restored this year. • Fillmore Central's budget is made of 85% state aid. • Fillmore Central cannot make instructional decisions without knowing how much state aid will be provided to the district.
Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS assessments would control teacher, principal, and school ratings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-8 and commencement level assessments are required in ELA, math, and science • Schools do not know what standards will be measured on NYS Pearson created assessments. • Schools do not have access to all questions after assessments to use the information for instruction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State assessments are one tool to measure student learning and teacher effectiveness. • Teachers and administrators are not able to utilize NYS 3-8 assessment information to inform instruction. • The new Common Core assessments are a moving target. • Teachers do not know exactly what to prepare their students for.
Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of teacher and principal evaluations will be based on NYS Common Core State Assessments. • Teachers whose scores indicate developing or ineffective cannot have a teacher rating of anything higher than developing or ineffective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% of teacher evaluations are currently based on assessments (20% on NYS assessments and 20% on local assessments) • Fillmore has embraced the new APPR evaluation process and created a system that is fair to teachers and principals and supports instruction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluations will not be used to support instruction. • Evaluations would be a tool to 'get' teachers and principals. • Research supports that test scores are not reliable indicators of teacher effectiveness
Tenure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher tenure will only be granted after 5 consecutive years of effective or highly effective ratings (1 developing rating would start the process over) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers can earn tenure after three years, using a multi-dimensional evaluation system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers are evaluated, provided with professional development and support to improve every year • Testing should not carry more weight than local observations when deciding tenure
Charter Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the cap on charter schools by 100 (to 560) • Charter schools will create competition with public schools, forcing school improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charter schools use a lottery system and do not have to accept all students. • Charter schools can remove students with behavioral and learning issues. • Charter schools take away funds from public schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fillmore educates all students. • Fillmore Central offers variety and supports for all students. • Teachers and administrators are focused on improving instruction for all students; competition from any charter school will not change this fact.