



## NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

August 6, 2020

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor  
New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As schools across New York State prepare for a new school year with the potential of returning to some form of in-person education, we write to you requesting that the state develop a plan for COVID-19 testing for those individuals who will be in our school buildings and not place that burden on our local school districts.

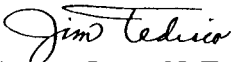
Many of the parents of students, teachers and school staff and administrators that we represent understandably have concerns about going back to in-person learning in September. As you know, school districts are now planning for a hybrid model of some in-person learning mixed with remote, distance learning. These schools are formulating and submitting plans to ensure, as best as possible, social distancing, mask wearing, installing building modifications such as sneeze guards, and adhering to all the CDC safety guidelines to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

We believe that requiring each school district to develop their own plan to conduct COVID-19 tests with our local county health departments would be very burdensome to have in place in the next few weeks. School districts are strapped for funding already because of the COVID-19 crisis. Any testing plan should be paid for by the state, hopefully with assistance from the federal government.

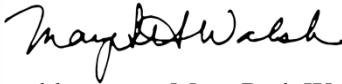
That's why we respectfully ask your Administration to formulate a plan for the state Department of Health (DOH) to assist our school districts in establishing a random testing model. For instance, DOH could implement on a statewide basis, pool testing such as the kind that Saratoga Hospital is now using. The results of pool testing are usually quick, enable health care facilities to conserve testing supplies, and would help give people peace of mind and keep people safe.

We hope your Administration will take an active role in assisting our schools and local governments with testing if you ultimately decide to enable schools to reopen this fall. Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Senator James N. Tedisco  
49<sup>th</sup> Senate District

  
Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara  
111<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

  
Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh  
112<sup>th</sup> Assembly District