



# Four Freedoms Democratic Club

Testimony prepared by Four Freedoms Democratic Club

Senate Standing Committee on Education and  
Senate Standing Committee on Budget and Revenues  
Public Hearing on Distribution of Foundation Aid Formula

December 3, 2019

I would like to thank the Senate Standing Committees on Education and Budget and Revenues for convening this important public hearing.

My name is Amy Schwartz. I am Co-Chair of the Education Workgroup, Four Freedoms Democratic Club. Founded in 2014, the Four Freedoms Democratic Club is an active, progressive, democratic club in Manhattan's Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island, dedicated to the ideals of FDR's "Four Freedoms" Speech.

Four Freedoms Democratic Club recently passed a resolution supporting advocacy for increased public school funding, which includes full funding by New York State of the \$1.4 billion dollars in Foundation Aid owed to New York City public schools based on the Campaign for Fiscal Equity ("CFE") case.

I am grateful for this opportunity to advocate on behalf of Four Freedoms Democratic Club for full funding of the \$1.4 billion dollars owed by New York State to New York City public schools in long overdue Foundation Aid. The \$1.4 billion dollars owed to NYC public schools is based on the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) case to provide necessary funding to give NYC students a mandated sound and basic education.

Public schools throughout the city are seriously underfunded due, in large part, to the state's failure to fully fund the \$1.4 billion dollars in Foundation Aid owed to NYC public schools. Denied these long overdue needed funds, NYC public schools lack the financial means to provide critical resources to our students, depriving millions of children the opportunities to reach their full potential.

New York State has failed to fund the Foundation Aid monies owed to New York city schools for far too long, preventing our students from receiving the right to a mandated sound and basic education. The students of New York City can't afford to wait any longer.

The \$1.4 billion in Foundation Aid must be fully funded by New York State in the 2020 budget without further delay. Accordingly, it is critical that the discussion of potential revisions to the Foundation Aid Formula must not be used to further delay full funding of the \$1.4 billion dollars in Foundation Aid to New York City public schools.

Full funding must happen in this 2020 budget - New York State needs to finally meet its obligation.

Thank you for allowing me, on behalf of the Four Freedoms Democratic Club, the opportunity to present testimony on this important issue.