

**Board of Education**  
**Homer Central School District**  
**STATE BUDGET RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, a world class public education is essential for the future success of our nation and today's school children; and

WHEREAS, Article XI, section 1 of the New York State Constitution states: "The legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a system of free common schools wherein all the children of this state may be educated"; and

WHEREAS, The NYS Court of Appeals has interpreted this provision to impose a duty on the legislature to ensure the availability of a sound basic education to all the children of the state *Fiscal Equity v State, 86 NY2d 307 (1995); see also Campaign v State of New York, 8 NY3d14 (2006)*].

WHEREAS, since the 2010-11 school year the state has deducted from each school district's state aid allocation to help the state fill its revenue shortfall and has frozen foundation aid to 2008-09 levels; and

WHEREAS, the total aid taken by this Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) from the public schools statewide is over \$8 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the state enacted the tax levy limit, thereby limiting the school districts' ability to raise local revenue; and

WHEREAS, since state aid and local property taxes are the primary sources of revenue for schools, these measures represent a systematic deconstruction of the public school system; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of four consecutive years has been detrimental to students in the form of cuts in personnel, programs and services, and the depletion of district reserves; and

WHEREAS, GEA reductions continue to erode the quality of education public schools can provide; and

WHEREAS, our mission cannot be accomplished without adequate resources; and

WHEREAS, the state now has a structural surplus and budgetary windfall from financial sanctions such that the state's financial crisis has been averted by transfer to public schools; and

WHEREAS, the state's financial windfall should be directed first to education, rather than any other government function; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Homer Central School Board of Education calls on the state legislature to step up to its Constitutional and moral obligations to fund properly education for the children of this state; and

RESOLVED, that the Homer Central School Board of Education calls on the state legislature to reject Governor Cuomo's proposed budget, holding state aid to schools hostage to dubious education reform, and instead adopt a budget which would mitigate the drastic cuts to education which affect our students and our communities and would protect public education as an investment critical to our stability and American competitiveness; and

RESOLVED, that the Homer Central School Board of Education calls on the state legislature to repeal the Gap Elimination Adjustment in his entirety for the 2015-16 school year and beyond and to use the state's financial windfall to restore funds already taken by the GEA; and

RESOLVED, that the Homer Central School Board of Education calls on the state legislature to provide sufficient and equitable funding, restore local control, diminish the focus on privatization and testing, and treat our children as the valuable, unique individuals they are, rather than depersonalized test scores and data points.