

**The Clarkstown Central School District Board of Education calls upon the New York State Legislature to exempt state aid for education from the calculation of the Gap Elimination Adjustments when adopting New York State's FY 2016 Annual Budget.**

**Whereas:** The New York State Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) was implemented in 2010 as a one-time reduction in education aid to help NYS balance its budget and the GEA has continued in every budget since then; and

**Whereas:** The GEA, since its inception, has reduced state aid to the Clarkstown Central School District by \$22,853,455 and

**Whereas:** The reduction in aid associated with the GEA has resulted in a cost shift to the local property taxpayer in the Clarkstown Central School District; and

**Whereas:** This cost shift has resulted in unsustainable measures being implemented to balance the Clarkstown Central School District budget, including the reduction and elimination of school programs, personnel, and services, and the reductions of school district reserve funds; and

**Whereas:** Efforts by the Clarkstown Central School District to sustain programs and services and contain budgets are simultaneously constrained by Property Tax Cap Legislation, unfunded and underfunded mandates, and state mandated increases in pension contribution costs; and

**Whereas:** State funding is constitutionally mandated and essential to meet all mandates and obligations to maintain the quality of education in the Clarkstown Central School District; and

**Whereas:** NYS has announced recent aid increases as generous support to schools, although overall, school districts are receiving very little additional aid when compared to 2008-09 budget year; and

**Whereas:** Some school districts have even experienced state aid decreases from 2008-09 to 2014-15; and

**Whereas:** The NYS Division of Budget, in its FY 2015 Financial Plan / Mid-Year Update, states, "DOB expects the State to end FY 2015 with a General Fund closing balance of \$6.8 billion.";

**Resolved,** That the Clarkstown Central School District Board of Education calls upon the New York State Legislature to exempt State Aid for education from the calculation of the GAP Elimination Adjustment when they adopt New York State's 2015-16 Annual Budget.