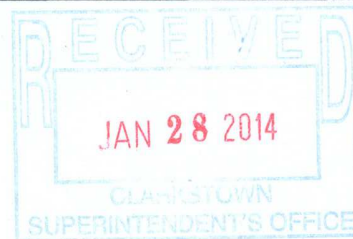


Carl



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY,
NY 12234

Office of Facilities Planning, Room 1060 Education Building Annex
Tel. (518) 474-3906
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Website: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/>



January 24, 2014

Dr. Thomas Morton
Superintendent
Clarkstown Central School System
62 Old Middletown Road,
New City, NY 10956

Re: Denial of State Building aid for renovations at
Congers Elementary School

Dear Dr. Morton:

Thank you for providing this office with the district enrollment and floor plan information as requested. We have reviewed the information and determined that there exists significant excess capacity within the district's remaining elementary schools to provide adequate space for the entire elementary school population.

Our analysis indicates that if the Congers elementary school is renovated and all other buildings remain open, the district would have 60 classrooms in excess of Department Standards. State building aid cannot be paid to renovate excess classroom space. If the district chooses to proceed without state building aid, a building permit is still required from this office.

The Department recommends that the district conduct a demographics and space analysis to inform how to utilize existing space in the most efficient manner. If the district determines that Congers should remain a viable instructional facility in the future, renovations could be eligible for aid if other schools were taken off line to align enrollment with available space. While I understand these are very difficult discussions within communities, it is incumbent on the district and the state to utilize resources as efficiently as possible.

My staff and I are available to meet with the district to discuss plans and options in an effort to help the district meet its obligations. Jean and I may be reached at (518) 474-3906.

Sincerely,

Carl T. Thurnau, PE
Director