



**CUOMO: FEDERAL AID WILL COME
“NEVER UNDERESTIMATE A POLITICIAN’S INSTINCT
FOR SELF-SURVIVAL”**

In response to a reporter’s question, Governor Cuomo today indicated that he is hesitant to impose state aid cuts for education, preferring to wait to see if federal officials “do their job” and provide stimulus funding to states. Claiming that Congress has already provided relief to billionaires and large corporations, Cuomo indicated that no politician will want to return home to run for election this fall having created catastrophic cuts in basic governmental services and programs, like police, fire protection and public education.

Suggesting that people should “never underestimate a politician’s instinct for self-survival”, Cuomo said that federal elected representatives would face a political firestorm if they were to go home to their districts and attempt to explain why they had provided relief to private corporations and not for the important services people rely on. As a result, both Cuomo and the state budget director indicated that they will wait until the end of the month before taking any action to reduce state spending.

State Budget Director Rob Mujica said that a state comptroller report to be released today would confirm that the state’s revenues are short \$14 billion, creating a \$61 billion shortfall over four years. However, he also expressed confidence that legislation being advanced by the House of Representatives contains significant relief for states and as a result, they are not prepared to cut aid to education at this time.

This is welcome news for school districts in the throes of local school budgeting and school board elections. The state budget established three “look back” periods where the state would assess potential revenue deficits and adjust payments to high spending areas like schools and health care. April was the first of those look back periods, potentially triggering cuts in aid. Today’s response however, points to a “wait and see” approach, possibly moving any future cuts to the second or third aid payments to schools, rather than the initial aid distribution and showing optimism that federal funding will eventually supplant those aid cuts

**REIMAGINE EDUCATION TASK FORCE TO MEET MONDAY
RURAL REPRESENTATIVES
APPOINTED TO ADVISORY GROUP**

Rural educational leaders were shocked and dismayed first that the governor would choose to examine post-pandemic public education while still in the midst of fighting that pandemic, then again when his Reimagine Education Task Force failed to include any rural educational leaders. RSA was quick to point out the potential harm in not recognizing the unique and more severe implications for the schools that have been most devastated educationally by the crisis. The governor's office was just as quick to respond, assuring RSA only minutes after receiving our concerns that they would empanel an advisory group to inform the work of the task force. That advisory group would seek to include representatives of various important groups, including the special educational community, New York City schools and rural schools. Rural school leaders were prompt in volunteering their services on that panel, agreeing to take on this extra work on behalf of their sister districts. Rural schools will now have several Advisory Panelists and RSA will work through them to convey important implications of the Task Force's recommendations and to suggest potential policies and programs that would support rural schools, beginning in the fall.

RSA would like to express its gratitude to all those who volunteered to participate in this important effort and to those who submitted questions and areas of impact that should be addressed by the Task Force. Look to your RSA to provide you with regular updates on this work.

Free On-Line Learning Webinar Series

Title	Description
Starting a Virtual Program: Transitioning from Brick and Mortar to Online Learning	Transitioning from a traditional learning environment to virtual learning can be overwhelming. This webinar will guide you through three to five key focus areas for a successful transition with a continued emphasis on learning and achievement.
Starting a Virtual Program: Making the Shift to Virtual Schooling- Tips for School Principals	This session, designed for educational leaders, will provide specific ideas in moving to online learning. The presentation will focus on training for families, supporting teachers, and leading everyone. The speaker has experience in opening a new virtual school and serving as a learning coach for children in the online model.
Virtual Leadership: Pandemic Mentoring: How to Care for Your New Teachers	We know that the 1st year is tough for any new teacher; however, imagine if this was your first year of teaching and all these changes were happening. The session will offer some strategies for mentors of new teachers during this unique time.
Virtual Leadership: Leading Virtual Teams	It can be difficult to manage teams virtually without the proper methods and tools. This session will identify 10 strategies to effectively manage and support virtual teachers.
Virtual Leadership: Building a Positive and Healthy Virtual School Culture	Culture is intangible, but it's an essential foundation of high-quality learning environments. School culture and climate have a direct impact on student achievement by creating the conditions for effective teaching and learning to occur. This is even more critical in a virtual school environment as it directly impacts student and family engagement in learning. This session will focus on strategies school leaders can use to be intentional in the creation and ongoing nurturing of their virtual school's culture and climate.

Whether you're just trying to get through the rest of the school year or planning for instruction next fall, digital learning will play an important role. Good virtual instruction will be vital to rural student achievement and even has the potential to supplement our "in person" curriculum. Your RSA is pleased to partner with K12 to bring you timely and relevant information in an easy format. Just take a look at the list of free webinars we're offering below. Forward the list to your administrative team and instructional staff and have them register to participate in as many of the webinars as they (or you!) choose. The quality of your digital instruction will improve, you'll feel more confident about the fall and you won't have invested a dime to do it!

[Registration information here ...](#)

