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DATE: March 15, 2016

TO: Nassau County Delegation to the New York State Senate  
Nassau County Delegation to the New York State Assembly  
Suffolk County Delegation to the New York State Senate  
Suffolk County Delegation to the New York State Assembly  
Counties of the Lower Hudson Delegation to the New York State Senate  
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FROM: Suffolk County School Superintendents Association (SCSSA)  
Nassau County Council of School Superintendents (NCCSS)  
Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents (LHCSS)

We greatly appreciate your efforts to end the GEA and include appropriate levels of state aid in the 2016-17 State budget. Unfortunately, these efforts will be for naught unless the budget language expressly decouples that aid from the current teacher evaluation law 3012-d. As you may be aware, the Board of Regents granted all districts waivers through June 30, 2016. However, unless a school district submits a negotiated 3012-d plan for each of the applicable bargaining units by that date, the aid will be lost. We have already seen the folly of rushed deadlines and poorly conceived plans; this will happen again unless the funding is decoupled from this arbitrary timeline.

We are asking for your immediate support in approving “decoupling” legislation that will ensure we receive full state funding that is so important for our district in these difficult financial times. A strong and meaningful teacher evaluation system requires time and a thoughtful, researched based approach. Thank you for your support on behalf of our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lorna R. Lewis  
President  
NCCSS

Susan A. Schnebel  
President  
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Mary Fox-Alter  
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