

**William H. Johnson, EdD
State Monitor
Hempstead Union Free School District
185 Peninsula Blvd
Hempstead, New York 11550**

April 30, 2021

Dr. Betty Rosa
Commissioner of Education
New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234

Dear Commissioner Rosa:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 19 of the Laws of 2020, I am providing you my report on the proposed Hempstead Union Free School District's (HYFSD or "the District") 2021-22 school year budget, a copy of the District's revenue projections, and a copy of the spending plan adopted by the District. Subsequently, I have made several recommendations that you direct the District to make amendments to the 2021-22 budget.

The proposed budget reflects the significant increase in State and Federal aid that the District will receive in the 2021-22 school year. This increase in aid has enabled the District to begin the process of rebuilding its instructional and support staff budget that was reduced by more than \$20 million over the past three school years.

The HUFSD continues to face significant fiscal and educational challenges that are unique to this community. Gaps in reading and math performance are caused in part by the significant reductions in funding for support services that has occurred in the last several school years. These reductions are, in turn, connected to the growing cost of tuition payment for resident students who attend charter schools. Enrollment in charter schools is currently 8.6% (8.6% of 4,778 students) (8.6% of 4,778 students) (8.6% of 4,778 students).

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Enclosures

Cc Kimberly Young-Wilkins
LaMont Johnson, President, Hempstead BOE
Regina Armstrong, Interim Superintendent, Hempstead Schools