

Help Arlington Lower Taxes (H.A.L.T.) - Petition

To: Assemblyman Joel Miller, Assemblyman Patrick Manning, Senator Steven Saland, Senator Vincent Leibell, Assemblyman Sheldon Silver, Senator Joseph Bruno, Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Representative John Sweeney, Representative Sue Kelly, Senator Hillary Clinton, Senator Charles Schumer, President George W. Bush

As a resident of the Arlington school district, I am writing to tell you that I am extremely dissatisfied with the current system for funding public schools.

Our taxes are higher than those in neighboring districts despite efficient spending on the part of our school district. The school property tax system ignores individuals' ability to pay and is hurting those on fixed and low incomes as well as many others in our area. New York State provides less funding proportionately for education than most other states and the formula for distributing it should be based on need and not politics. The funding formula should be equitable, adequate, flexible, predictable, and transparent.

There are a number of proposals that meet these criteria such as the ones developed by the Statewide School Finance Consortium, of which Arlington is a member, the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE), and the New York State Regents. The CFE court case awaits a response, which must be a state-wide solution to the crisis of underfunded public education in New York State.

In addition, federal mandates such as No Child Left Behind and especially IDEA (The Individuals with Disabilities Act), and the lack of promised federal funding for special education costs are putting additional severe strain on our local taxpayers.

Your commitment and support for my concerns would be appreciated and will ensure my support in the future.

Sincerely,

Name	Address	City, State, Zip