

February 16, 2007

Dear Governor Spitzer:

I am writing to inform you of a recent funding decision that, without your intervention, could have a devastating impact on children and families in New York City and throughout the state.

Recently, the state Education Department decided not to issue the long-expected RFP for Cohort One of 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding.

The result of this decision is that more than 34,000 children are in jeopardy of losing the after-school programs that extend their learning and keep them safe while their parents work. It means that 207 21st CCLC programs throughout the state are in danger of shutting down or severely reducing the number of children they can serve. It means that approximately 3,400 after-school program staff are likely to be laid off.

You can prevent this from happening by including in your budget \$30 million for a one-year extension of program funding. This will prevent program shut-downs while a more permanent solution can be found.

As soon as word begins to spread that we are likely to close our doors to children when the school year ends, we face the risk of losing trained staff. Children and parents will have their school and work routines immediately disrupted.

If programs shut down for a year, the damage will be crippling to our neighborhoods and schools. Principals and schools will lose resources that help them raise achievement and attendance, and relationships between programs and host schools will be endangered. Families and children will lose the opportunities and safe havens they have relied on for five years, every day that school is in session.

Perhaps our greatest concern is that we will violate the trust and good faith of families, who depend on our programs to operate from year to year. I urge you to make an immediate priority of preventing this imminent loss of services to children and families. Please contact me at (516) 292-7069 to discuss the critical issue.

Sincerely,

John Moore
(Principal, Franklin School)

C: [Richard P. Mills, Commissioner of Education](#)
C: [Manuel Rivera, Deputy Secretary for Education](#)