



LOWER HUDSON EDUCATION COALITION

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MEMO IN SUPPORT

S.4963-A (Reichlin-Melnick)/A.7164-A (Lawler)

The Lower Hudson Education Coalition (LHEC) supports S.4963-A (Reichlin-Melnick)/A.7164-A (Lawler), which would authorize payment of building aid for previously approved and completed building projects at the Pearl River Union Free School District.

This bill allows the State Education Department to consider the final cost reports for the Pearl River Union Free School District, after an inadvertent administrative error led to the reports not being submitted in a “timely” manner. NYSED assessed the Pearl River School District a \$651,397 penalty for this error, and without full forgiveness this burden will fall to taxpayers. The restoration of this lost aid is critical as the district plans for the future. The Pearl River School District is faced with rising operating costs as the ageing infrastructure of its five school buildings and campuses need replacement and renovation

For these reasons, LHEC urges the signing of S.4963-A (Reichlin-Melnick)/A.7164-A (Lawler), so Pearl River can continue to maintain a safe learning environment for all students and staff.