



JEFFERSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear JCS families,

I hope that this letter finds you well and enjoying the holiday season as best you can given the current challenges we are facing. As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic is creating financial struggles throughout the state which has significantly impacted our area and specifically our school. I am reaching out to you to make you aware of the financial impact this is having and will potentially have on Jefferson Central School for the next few years.

At this time, the state is withholding 20% of our aid which is approximately \$730,000. Our annual budget is about \$7,000,000, therefore, this withholding is over 10% of our total budget. Additionally, some aid from the previous year and grants for the current year have not yet been released. This is extremely concerning as it is being projected that these sort of holdbacks will be a trend for the next few years.

Our priority continues to be maintaining our school identity while providing quality educational opportunities in a fiscally responsible manner. Given the financial crisis that has been created, we will have to make decisions that will allow us to remain open and deliver programs that will prepare our students for challenges beyond our school. To do this, we will identify and apply cost saving measures so that we may continue to support our students and community. If these actions are not taken, the school could no longer exist in just a few years. Failing to act now could cause our community to not only lose its school, but also its largest employer. A significant number of our faculty and staff live right in Jefferson or its surrounding towns. The economic impact it would have on Jefferson as a municipality would be dire and only worsen the financial struggles we are facing as a town.

I deeply appreciate your support and understanding during these very challenging times and look forward to a time when we can once again gather to celebrate the successes of our school and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tarkan Ceng', written over a horizontal line.

Tarkan Ceng, Ed.D.

Superintendent