

Dear Editor,

As educators, parents and school board members, we were appalled to hear that Governor Andrew Cuomo will be working with the **Gates Foundation** on "reimagining" our schools following the COVID-19 crisis.

Bill Gates and the **Gates Foundation** have promoted one failed educational initiative after another, causing huge disaffection in districts throughout the state.

Whether that be the high-handed push by the **Gates Foundation** for the invalid Common Core standards, unreliable teacher evaluation linked to test scores, or **privacy-violating data** collection via the corporation known as **inBloom Inc.**, the education of our children has been repeatedly put at risk by their non-evidence based "solutions", which were implemented without parent input and despite significant public opposition.

As you recall, these policies also sparked a huge opt-out movement across the state, with more than 20 percent of eligible students refusing to take the state exams.

We urge the governor instead to listen to parents and teachers rather than allow the **Gates Foundation** to implement their damaging education agenda once again.

Since the schools were shut down in mid-March, our understanding of the profound deficiencies of screen-based instruction has only grown. The use of education tech may have its place, but only as an ancillary to in-person learning, not as its replacement.

Along with many other parents and educators, we strongly oppose the **Gates Foundation** to influence the direction of education in the state by expanding the use of ed tech.

Instead, we ask that the governor fund our schools sufficiently and equitably, to allow for the smaller classes, school counselors, and other critical services that our children will need more than ever before, given the myriad losses they have experienced this year.

Sincerely,

New York State Allies for Public Education

Class Size Matters

Parent Coalition for Student **Privacy**

CITATION (CMS STYLE)

"Close the Gates." *Brooklyn Downtown Star (NY)*, May 13, 2020. *NewsBank: Access World News*. <https://infoweb-newsbank-com.atxlibrary.idm.oclc.org/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/17AF8ACBAC719810>.

Copyright, 2020, Brooklyn Downtown Star (NY), Queens Ledger/Greenpoint Star Inc. All Rights Reserved.