

October 19, 2021

Dear New York State Independent Redistricting Commission:

Again, I would like to thank the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission for permitting written testimony as you begin work as required by the 2020 Census.

The Orleans/Niagara BOCES serves 13 component school districts, including three small cities, covering over 900 square miles while servicing over 34,000 students in the Northwest quadrant of New York State. The BOCES and component school districts are very dependent upon the New York State Legislature annually for funding. Our mutual interest to support low wealth rural and small cities Pre-kindergarten to Grade 12 populations needs a single-focused and committed Senatorial Legislator who can advocate for our interests and not be diluted across multiple representatives with geographic limitations. Inclusive of school funding are tangential school issues of economic growth, grant opportunities, environmental impacts, energy and compliance issues that all call for a focused representative.

For the aforementioned issues, I believe it is imperative that not only the 13 school districts be represented by the same New York State Senate District, but both Niagara and Orleans Counties remain whole to meet our commonality of issues across this geographic area. Our students, taxpayers and school districts need a single and uniform voice in Albany to represent our multiple interests to best serve our clientele.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clark J. Godshall". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Dr. Clark J. Godshall
District Superintendent