



Matthew J. McDonald, Superintendent of Schools
29 East Oneida Street • Baldwinsville, NY 13027
315-638-6043 (office) • 315-638-6041 (fax) • www.bville.org

September 9, 2019

Honorable Denise Sher
Justice, Supreme Court
County of Albany
16 Eagle Street
Albany, NY 12207

Honorable Judge Sher:

I write you today to respectfully share my concern with the recent decision to remove the religious exemption from our students without dialogue with all constituents impacted by the decision. As a school official who is required by law to educate every child, I find myself in a position where I now have to turn children away because of their religious belief(s).

In my 23-year career, the religious exemption has never caused an issue or problem. Accordingly, I ask that you please grant a stay to the children who will be adversely impacted by this exclusion from school. Doing this will hopefully allow us to give our input and ask clarifying questions related to the future impact of this decision. Granting a stay will also allow the professionals in the field to explain the impact to the children and their future endeavors.

As my team prepares for the opening of the school year, we find ourselves buried with parent meetings asking, "What do they do"? I got in the business of education because I love children and will do anything to help them thrive and be successful. Now I am put in a position to turn some students away due to this new law. As an educator and as a parent, I implore you to grant a stay so that we can work together for a solution to this situation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. J. McDonald", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Matthew J. McDonald
Superintendent of Schools
Baldwinsville Central School District