



## UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

929 York Street  
Utica, NY 13502

### **New York State Appellate Division Issues Landmark Decision in Favor of the Utica City School District**

For Immediate Release:

UTICA, New York - On Thursday, May 27, 2021, a New York State appellate court rendered a landmark decision in the favor of the Utica City School District following many years of litigation by the district in the fight to achieve equitable funding for high needs school districts such as Utica.

Utica City School District Superintendent Bruce Karam provided countless hours of testimony in an Albany courthouse on behalf of the Utica City School District in order to make its case that New York State has not met its obligation under the New York State Constitution “to provide a sound basic education” to students in the Utica City School District due to many years of historic underfunding of state aid.

The May 27, 2021 ruling by the appellate division reversed a 2019 decision by the New York State Supreme Court which had ruled in the state’s favor. This important legal victory is the culmination of an aggressive lobbying effort for over a decade by Superintendent Bruce Karam and members of the Board of Education who have fought vigorously to obtain the state aid funding that the students of the Utica City School District deserve and are entitled to receive.

The Utica City School District is owed tens of millions of dollars by New York State due to the underfunding of Foundation Aid for over a decade. The Utica City School District was joined in the lawsuit against the state by seven (7) other small cities which are also affected by the appellate court’s decision. The appellate court has sent the case back to the New York State Supreme Court for resolution. This is a hard fought victory for the students of the Utica City School District.

A copy of the decision can be found at the following link:

<http://decisions.courts.state.ny.us/ad3/Decisions/2021/528550.pdf>

The Utica City School District is comprised of 10 Elementary Schools, 2 Middle Schools and Proctor High School, all serving the students of Utica.

For more information about the district please visit <https://www.uticaschools.org/>