

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 21, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

An alarming new report has exposed how millions of dollars of funding from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) have flowed into America's K-12 classrooms.¹ Programs vetted and managed by China's government have infiltrated 34 states and Washington, D.C., which impacts approximately 170,000 students across 143 school districts. Unfortunately, this investigation discovered 12 school systems in our own state have received money from the CCP. This includes the New York City Department of Education, which received \$375,575.00 in CCP-connected funding. Considering China's adversarial relationship with the United States, this is deeply problematic and presents a national security concern for our constituents and state.

This investigation details how the CCP has been actively working to gain access to America's K-12 schools since 2009. Through grants, sister school partnerships, and other programming, the CCP has exploited these connections into America's education system to advance their own agenda. In 2013, it was reported that China considers Confucius Institutes "important channels" to promote and advance their "Belt and Road" initiatives.² They are using these soft power tactics to shape public sentiment toward China, and it is why the CCP wants to expand 'Confucius Classrooms' across America.

The threats of 'Confucius Institutes' are well documented. Back in 2020, the State Department designated these programs a "foreign mission" of the Chinese government.³ The CCP is using the same playbook to further expand their information operations in our K-12 classrooms. We cannot sit idle and allow China to infiltrate our classrooms and communities through these controversial programs. We are writing to not only share this dangerous situation, but to request that you address this concerning report and the underlying issue of CCP influence in New York K-12 education. This would include:

1. Directing the New York Department of Education to collect data from public school districts on funding and programming provided by organizations known to be funded by foreign entities. This includes foreign governments and nonprofit organizations based outside of the United States, as well as U.S.-based nonprofits funded in part by foreign entities.
2. Requiring school districts to release annual reports showing all foreign funds they are receiving for K-12 schools, and the programs this funding provides.
3. Investigating how these CCP-linked partnerships might have exposed student data to the Chinese government and whether American schools have provided models, lessons, equipment, or

¹ <https://defendinged.org/investigations/little-red-classrooms-china-infiltration-of-american-k-12-schools/>

² https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2016-12/12/content_27640662.htm

³ <https://2017-2021.state.gov/confucius-institute-u-s-center-designation-as-a-foreign-mission/>

education strategies that benefit the Chinese government—including Chinese military—operations.

4. Investigate ties to Chinese military and energy universities that operate at the behest of the Chinese government.

The Chinese Communist Party is the greatest threat to freedom we face today. As public officials, we share a mutual interest in strengthening our security and protecting our communities and constituents. We look forward to working with you in preventing our students and their families from falling victim to the malfeasance of the CCP.

Sincerely,



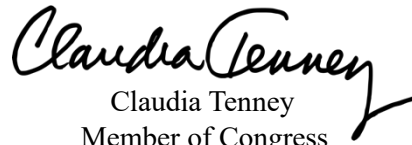
Brandon Williams
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
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Nicole Malliotakis
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Claudia Tenney
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Anthony D'Esposito
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