

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 2392/ASSEMBLY BILL 3969**  
**LEGISLATION AFFECTING TRANSMISSION OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUE TO**  
**SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 2392 and Assembly Bill 3969, currently pending in the state Legislature, would authorize the Department of Community Affairs to permit municipalities to delay or alter the transmission of property tax revenue to school districts during gubernatorial-declared emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's public schools are highly dependent on property tax revenue to support education programs; and

**WHEREAS**, on average, local property taxes constitute close to 60% of public school revenue, with the percentage even greater in a significant number of districts; and

**WHEREAS**, delaying or altering the transmission of property tax revenue from municipalities would result in a financial crisis for school districts, seriously disrupting the educational process; and

**WHEREAS**, although public school buildings are closed during the current health emergency, the education of our students is taking place through remote instruction and, therefore, continued timely transmission of all property tax revenue due to the school district is critical for the educational process to continue without interruption; and

**WHEREAS**, under our state's current structure, municipalities are designated as the authorities to collect property taxes, but those taxes are levied for specific purposes—e.g., municipal, school, county, fire district—and these obligations must continue to be met; and

**WHEREAS**, municipal governing bodies are empowered under current law to borrow in order to ensure that full payments to school districts are made;

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin Lakes Board of Education recognizes the impact of the current public health emergency on the state and local governments, as well as local school districts, but believes that this legislation would only worsen the situation for our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, while S-2392/A-3969 would require a municipality to pay a percentage of the revenue due to a school district based on consultation between the state Departments of Community Affairs and Education, the amount of taxes collected at the time and the financial condition of the municipality and school district, it does not address subsequent payment to the school district to make up the full shortfall amount; and

**WHEREAS**, as currently written, S-2392/A-3969, which is designed to ease a financial burden on municipalities, would place a severe strain on school districts and the students and families that they serve.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Franklin Lakes Board of Education urges the State Legislature and Governor to oppose S-2392/A-3969; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Philip D. Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and the Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey School Boards Association.**

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_  
Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

DATED: May 12, 2020

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