



NJSBA



April 3, 2020

Kevin Drennan, Executive Director
Senate Majority Office
P.O. Box 099
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0099
KDrennan@njleg.org

Dear Mr. Drennan:

Re: A-3902 Recommendations

The major organizations representing each sector of our state's education community have recently voiced their opposition to A-3902, as unanimously approved by the General Assembly on March 23, 2020. These organizations include the NJ School Boards Association (NJSBA), the NJ Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA), the NJEA, the NJ Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO), the NJ Association of School Administrators (NJASA), the New Jersey PTA, and the Garden State Coalition of Schools (GSCS).

Our collective concern is the potential for major disruption to the educational process that a delay in payment of tax revenues to districts will cause to school district budgets, staffing and operations during the current public health crisis. Although public schools have moved to remote operations, our members are working hard to meet the educational, mental health, and physical wellness needs of our students and communities.

We understand and applaud the hard work that is being performed by our municipalities, police and fire departments and first responders on the front lines. In the current public health crisis, everyone in New Jersey needs to work together to ensure our state's social and economic recovery, both in the short-term and long-term.

In this context, we appreciate the willingness of the State Senate to work proactively with the school and municipal government communities to address our concerns with A-3902. We offer the following recommendations as the basis for amendments:

1. In the event that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services permits municipalities to extend the dates for the payment of taxes due to a school district, as authorized by A-3902, the legislation shall also require the Director to compel the municipal governing body to issue short-term notes to offset the deferred tax revenue and make the local school district whole and harmless from any loss of cash flow.
2. No bill should be implemented without an absolute provision that the extraordinary authority granted the Director of the Division of Local

Government Services would be immediately terminated when the emergency is declared over. This would guarantee that the special authority granted the Director does not extend beyond the emergent situation, such as the one currently facing our state.

These additional provisions would guarantee that no local boards of education are faced with the impossible choice of curtailing educational services in any New Jersey school district.

Thank you for your consideration of these important amendments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, Executive Director
NJ School Boards Association

Dr. Richard Bozza, Executive Director
NJ Association of School Administrators

Susan Young, Executive Director
NJ Association of School Business Officials

Steven Swetsky, Executive Director
NJ Education Association

Cathy Lindenbaum, President
NJ PTA

Patricia Wright, Executive Director
NJ Principals & Supervisors Association

Betsy Ginsburg, Executive Director
Garden State Coalition of Schools