**Sample Letter to State Senators**

**Urging Opposition to S-2392/A-3969**

* Electronic Correspondence: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/SelectMun.asp>
* Legislative District Office mailing addresses: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/abcroster.asp>

***Board Members*:** If corresponding independently to a legislator, include the following language at the end of your letter:

“Please note that I am expressing my opinion in my capacity as a private citizen and am not speaking on behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education.”

Dear Senator/Assemblyman/Assemblywoman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

Senate Bill 2392/Assembly Bill 3969 would pose serious financial difficulties to local school districts and the educational process. I urge you to oppose the legislation.

The legislation 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, such as our state’s current situation.

I fully recognize the impact of the current public health emergency on the state and local governments, as well as local school districts. This legislation, however, would only worsen the situation for our community.

New Jersey’s public schools are highly dependent on property tax revenue to support education programs. On average, local property taxes constitute nearly 60% of public school revenue. A delay in or alteration of payments from municipalities could seriously disrupt the educational process in the **[*Name of School District*]** Public Schools.

Although school buildings are closed during the current health emergency, the education of the **[*Name of School District*]** School District students is taking place through remote instruction. Continued timely transmission of all school property tax revenue due to the school district is critical for the educational process to continue without interruption.

Municipalities are designated as the authorities to collectproperty taxes. But those taxes are levied for specific purposes—e.g., municipal, school, county, fire district—and these obligations must continue to be met. Moreover, under current law, municipal governing bodies are empowered to borrow in order to ensure that full payments to school districts are made.

Although 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 of the full shortfall amount.

As currently written, S-2392/A-3969 would place a severe strain on school districts and the students and the families that they serve.

Sincerely,

Name

Home Address