

**RESOLUTION**  
**Restoration of 2009-2010 State School Aid Cuts**

WHEREAS, the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education recognizes that sound financial management is necessary to support the school program; and

WHEREAS, the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District bases its budget on academic goals, current needs and data collected through a long-range planning process; and

WHEREAS, the district's prudent expenditure practices have resulted in an excess surplus of \$ 520,079.00 during the current fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, current state law requires districts to apply these excess funds toward the 2010-2011 school budget in order to control local property taxes;

WHEREAS, through its policy of sound fiscal management, the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education has placed in reserve for the current school year \$ 0 to ensure that maintenance and facility repairs do not affect its financial stability; and

WHEREAS, under Executive Order 14, the Governor has frozen the Swedesboro-Woolwich school district's current-year state aid in an amount equal to its excess surplus and 25 percent of its capital reserve and other reserve accounts; and

WHEREAS, the aid cut unfairly targets the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District and others that accumulated additional surplus and/or put aside reserve funds as the result of sound financial practices; and

WHEREAS, by forcing the expenditure of these surplus funds in the current school year, the Swedesboro-Woolwich district will not have them available to control next year's school property taxes; and

WHEREAS, replenishment of reserve accounts next year will divert limited resources from the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14 will have a negative impact on property taxpayers and the education program in the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District in 2010-2011. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education urges the state Legislature and the Governor to pursue other means to resolve the state's current-year budget gap without jeopardizing school programs or penalizing property taxpayers in the future; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such an alternative should leave in place school districts' excess surplus, as well as their capital reserves; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to Governor Christopher Christie, Acting Commissioner of Education Bret Schundler, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, state Senator Stephen M. Sweeney and Assembly Representatives John J. Burzichelli; and be it further

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

**RESOLUTION**  
**Suspension of 2010 School Budget Elections**

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2010, Governor Christopher Christie issued Executive Order 14, which froze current-year state aid payments in more than 500 local school districts, including Swedesboro-Woolwich School District; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14 sets out a process whereby affected school districts would use their excess surplus and portions of reserve accounts to make up for the loss of current-year aid, a strategy that will have an uncertain impact on next year's (2010-2011) school budgets; and

WHEREAS, local school districts have been advised of four possible scenarios concerning their 2010-2011 state aid allocations, adding to the uncertainty over future school finances; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's annual budget message, through which official state school aid amounts for 2010-2011 will be released, has been postponed until March 16; and

WHEREAS, local school boards must finalize proposed budgets for placement on the election ballot by April 3, a span of less than three weeks; and

WHEREAS, the lack of complete information about state school funding and the compressed budget timelines will pose a burden to local school districts in developing intelligent, responsible budgets; and

WHEREAS, the scheduling of the school budget referendums on April 20 precludes the allotment of additional time needed for budget development; and

WHEREAS, proposed school budgets are controlled by a tax-levy cap and undergo thorough review by the state's Executive County Superintendents, thereby ensuring efficient and responsible use of taxpayer funds; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education urges Governor Christopher Christie and the state Legislature to take necessary action to suspend the 2010 school budget elections; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education also urges state lawmakers to permit certification of school tax levies based on the budgets approved by local boards of education following the public hearings required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 22-10 et seq.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Swedesboro-Woolwich Board of Education also urges state lawmakers to adjust the school budget calendar to extend timelines for the budget development, hearing and adoption process, thereby enabling school districts to develop responsible budgets necessary to meet state and local education goals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to Governor Christopher Christie, Acting Commissioner of Education Bret Schundler, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, state Senator Stephen M. Sweeney and Assembly Representatives John J. Burzichelli; and be it further

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