

RESOLUTION #2023-12

A resolution requesting that the State increase and inflation-proof the BSA, and implement a more equitable local funding mechanism than the required local contribution.

WHEREAS, it is the State's constitutional obligation to establish and maintain a system of public schools; and

WHEREAS, the State currently provides only 64% of education funding, while local government contributions and local impact aid make up the remainder; and

WHEREAS, as part of the funding formula designed by the State, a minimum local contribution of 2.65 mills (or equivalent) is required; and

WHEREAS, federal Impact Aid is intended to be distributed directly to school districts impacted by federal lands and activities, and to supplement local budgets; and

WHEREAS, education is by far the largest budget item for those local governments with education powers, and is required of all boroughs, and home rule and first class cities in the Unorganized Borough; and

WHEREAS, increasing local contributions to keep pace with rising costs means trade-offs for each local government, including increasing taxes and decreased spending on other essential programs, such as public safety and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the State's fiscal challenges increase the potential for additional costs to fall on boroughs, and home rule or first class cities in the Unorganized Borough; and

WHEREAS, instead of shifting the cost of education – and the State's responsibilities – to local governments, the State should give greater flexibility to local governments to give as they are able, while the State simultaneously ensures adequate levels of funding, and

WHEREAS, the State has not increased the BSA corresponding to higher costs and inflation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AML requests the State raise and inflation proof the BSA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AML encourages the State to pursue a more equitable and inclusive means of funding education than is currently raised through the required local contribution.