



NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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February 26, 2009

**TO: Governor David A. Paterson
NYS Senate Majority Leader Malcolm Smith
NYS Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver
Long Island NYS Senate Delegation
Long Island NYS Assembly Delegation**

**FROM: Jim Kaden, President
Fran Greenspan, Legislation Committee Chairperson**

Approval of the MTA's proposal for a .33% payroll tax on employers within the MTA region would impose a costly mandate on Nassau and Suffolk County school districts. This proposed payroll tax would result in increasing Nassau County school budgets by approximately \$11.6 million, and Suffolk County school budgets by approximately \$12.8 million, a cost that will be shifted directly to the local school property tax.

Why would the state tax its schools to support commuter operations unless it is to shift the cost away from the state and on to the backs of the local property taxpayer?

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association (N-SSBA) has been calling for relief from overly burdensome property taxes. Is the response from the state to be the imposition of an even greater burden?

On behalf of our 112 member boards of education, we urge you to understand the fiscal impact of this tax on our school districts and reject the pressure to shift the MTA's responsibility on to school children.