



NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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**May 1, 2009**

**TO: Long Island NYS Senate and Assembly Delegations**

**cc: Governor David A. Paterson  
Senate Majority Leader Malcolm A. Smith  
Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Silver**

**From: Jim Kaden, President  
Fran Greenspan, Legislation Chair**

**Re: MTA School Payroll Tax – Stop the Shell Game!**

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**A rumored proposal for the MTA bailout plan would come with a promise of “bullet aid” to downstate schools to relieve some of the fiscal pain inflicted by the imposition of a MTA tax on school payrolls.**

**While Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association appreciates the acknowledgment of the burden the ill-conceived MTA bailout plan would inflict on schools and local taxpayers, the proposed solution is not a solution.**

**The Governor would have school districts accept a permanent obligation to fund the MTA in exchange for a promise of reimbursement that is ephemeral at best.**

**Long Islanders were not born yesterday! A long history of unfulfilled state aid commitments leaves us justifiably skeptical of “reimbursement” aids, which become pawns in Albany’s annual budget negotiation process.**

**This plan would require schools to increase salary lines and total expenditure budgets, while any “reimbursement” would no doubt be reported to the public as an increase in state aid, allowing the state to profess that its “bullet aid” is easing the burden of increased school spending! Sorry, we’ve been caught in this shell game too many times in the past.**

**There is no place in good government for a raid on school funds to bail out a transit system. Reject the Governor’s plan to make school districts the middlemen for the MTA. Take the “reimbursement” money and pay it directly to the MTA.**