



NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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TO: Long Island State Senate and Assembly Delegations

**FROM: Jim Kaden, President
Fran Greenspan, Legislation Chairperson
Martin Kaye, Legislation Vice Chairperson**

RE: State Holding Up Local Records Management Grants

For the first time in the history of the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund, \$10 million in commitments to local school districts localities have been held up by the State Division of the Budget.

The Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association asks for your immediate assistance to secure the release of these grant awards.

Grants paid for by local taxpayers through fees collected by their county and sent to Albany are being withheld from their intended purpose of assisting localities with records management. These grants were supposed to be distributed by July 1, a critical date for school districts as it is the start of the new fiscal year. Summer months provide the best opportunity for districts to comply with the requirements to maintain and archive records and are the optimum time for the most efficient use of these funds.

For this year, the time is lost forever.

The New York State School Boards Association fears that the State Division of the Budget has delayed in the distribution of these funds in an attempt to use the \$10 million for purposes other than those intended by state legislators, possibly sweeping them away to help plug the state deficit.

On behalf of our 112 Long Island member boards of education, we call upon you to ensure that these funds are properly and promptly distributed to their intended recipients in order to prevent burdening the local taxpayer with paying twice for the costs of these vital functions.