TOWNSHIP OF FRANKFORD
COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION 2026-067

Calling Upon the Governor of the State of New Jersey and the New Jersey Department of Education to Review the State School Funding Formula and the Allocation of State Aid to Districts Reporting Substantial Excess Surplus

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Frankford has repeatedly advocated for fair, transparent, and equitable State funding for the students and taxpayers of Frankford Township; and

WHEREAS, the Frankford Township School District has experienced substantial reductions in State school aid following the implementation of P.L. 2018, c. 67, commonly referred to as "S-2"; and

WHEREAS, these reductions have contributed to significant financial challenges for the Frankford Township School District, including reductions in staffing, programs and services, increased financial pressure upon local taxpayers, and other extraordinary measures necessary to balance the District's budget; and

WHEREAS, Frankford Township has previously called upon the State of New Jersey to address disparities in the distribution of State school aid and to establish a more fair, equitable, and transparent school funding system; and

WHEREAS, recent publicly reported audit findings concerning Newark Public Schools have raised additional questions regarding substantial amounts of excess surplus maintained by a school district receiving significant State financial support; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee recognizes that "excess surplus" is a term defined by New Jersey school finance law and regulation and that the existence of excess surplus does not, standing alone, establish waste, wrongdoing, or an improper State aid allocation; and

WHEREAS, nevertheless, the accumulation of substantial excess surplus in a district receiving significant State aid, while districts such as Frankford have experienced repeated reductions in State aid and severe financial consequences, raises legitimate public-policy questions regarding the operation, accuracy, fairness, and efficiency of New Jersey's school funding system; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee believes that State school aid should be distributed based upon current, accurate, transparent, and objectively verifiable measures of student and district

need and should be periodically reviewed to ensure that taxpayer resources are being directed where they are most needed; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee believes that no New Jersey student should be disadvantaged because of an outdated, inequitable, or insufficiently responsive funding methodology;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Frankford, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- The Township Committee respectfully calls upon the Governor of the State of New Jersey and the New Jersey Department of Education to conduct a comprehensive review of the State school funding formula and its distribution of State aid.
- As part of that review, the Township Committee requests that the New Jersey Department of Education examine districts receiving substantial State aid that simultaneously report substantial excess surplus and determine whether current State aid calculations adequately account for a district's demonstrated financial position and available resources.
- The Township Committee specifically requests that the State examine and publicly explain how significant excess surplus may accumulate in heavily State-funded school districts while districts such as Frankford Township have experienced repeated reductions in State aid and substantial financial distress.
- The Township Committee requests that the State compare the financial circumstances and State aid allocations of Newark Public Schools and other districts reporting substantial excess surplus with districts significantly impacted by S-2 reductions, including the Frankford Township School District.
- The Township Committee requests that the New Jersey Department of Education provide greater transparency regarding the factors, data, calculations, and methodologies used to determine State school aid allocations so that taxpayers, parents, local officials, and school districts can independently understand how State education dollars are distributed.
- The Township Committee urges the Governor, Legislature, and New Jersey Department of Education to consider appropriate statutory, regulatory, or administrative reforms necessary to ensure that the State school funding system responds to actual and current financial need and provides fair educational opportunities to students throughout New Jersey.

7. Nothing contained in this Resolution shall be construed as alleging wrongdoing by Newark Public Schools or any other school district. Rather, this Resolution requests that the State evaluate whether its own funding methodology is functioning fairly, efficiently, transparently, and as intended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to:

- Governor Mikie Sherrill;
- The New Jersey Commissioner of Education;
- The New Jersey Department of Education, Office of School Finance;
- The President of the New Jersey Senate;
- The Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly;
- The State Legislators representing Frankford Township;
- The Frankford Township Board of Education; and
- Such other State officials as the Township Clerk may deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee respectfully requests a written response from the Governor's Office and/or New Jersey Department of Education addressing the concerns and requests set forth herein.

CERTIFICATION

I, Lori Nienstedt, Municipal Clerk for the Township of Frankford, hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Frankford at their scheduled meeting held October 13, 2026.

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Lori Nienstedt, CMR, MBA
Municipal Clerk, Administrator