

**RESOLUTION No. 3 OF BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCARSDALE UFSD  
TO FREEZE AND RESTRICT NEW OR PENDING LEGISLATED UNFUNDED MANDATES**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Scarsdale Union Free School District that mandate relief must be addressed by the New York State Legislature as school districts implement the property tax levy limit.

**WHEREAS**, New York State leads the nation in local property taxes, in large part because New York leads the nation in imposing unfunded state mandates upon our local municipalities and school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to New York's property tax crisis, the Governor and members of the New York State Legislature enacted legislation imposing a limit on the annual growth of the local school tax levy; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State school districts are under unprecedented funding shortfalls due to three years of frozen Foundation Aid, last year's \$1.2 billion aid cut, expiration of stimulus aid and revenue restrictions under the tax levy limit, which goes into effect for the 2012-13 school year, and

**WHEREAS**, unfunded and underfunded state mandates continually increase the obligations and expenditures of local public school districts, and a property tax levy limit without significant mandate reform will inescapably lead to drastic cuts in essential local school district programs and services, as well as significant layoffs of school district employees, and in some cases outright insolvency, in New York State school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the cumulative impact of satisfying unfunded and underfunded mandates diverts local money from our school district's top priority of student learning,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we the members of the Board of Education of the Scarsdale Union Free School District join fellow school board members in Westchester and Putnam Counties in affirming the obligation of the Governor of the State of New York and the members of the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly, to reform mandates that are unsound, unduly burdensome, or costly, and thereby lead to high property taxes in New York.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, in accordance with Article 24, Executive Law 666, which establishes a Mandate Relief Council, the Scarsdale Union Free School District asks, by resolution of its governing body, that the Mandate Relief Council review the following:

- 1) A revision of current legislation that requires a "review" of new mandate costs that includes a comprehensive cost analysis and determination of the funding source.
- 2) The practice of cost-shifting of mandated programs.
- 3) A freeze and review of all currently proposed and pending mandates.

*What is the extent of unfunded or underfunded mandates in New York State that impact the education economy in the Lower Hudson Valley?*

- *There are 151 State and Federal public school unfunded or underfunded mandates under the following categories: Administration, Business, Facilities, Health/Safety, School-wide Instruction, Technology, Human Resources, Non-public Schools, and Transportation.*
- *In 2008-09, a group of nine Westchester school districts (READ) analyzed the costs of the unfunded mandates.*
- *Mandates were equivalent to 17% of a district's budget;*
- *In 2008-09, taxpayers in the READ districts funded \$117 million mandates;*
- *If these eight districts could have cut just a third of these costs, a \$39 million dollar savings would have been returned to taxpayers to provide greater efficiencies for schools.*

- *If extrapolated to all Westchester districts in 2011-12 with a 20% reduction in mandates, the savings would have been over \$1 Billion.*

*Since legislation of the tax cap, the following unfunded mandates have been proposed or legislated: printing of state assessments; scoring of state assessments; security of state assessments; concussion management and training; and anti-bullying regulations (Dignity for All Students Act).*

*Mandates are written with good intentions; however, in better economic times providing funding for these ideas was less challenging. It has been said that we are in a fiscal period defined as the "new normal". Those who propose new mandates, however well-intentioned, must also identify the funding sources and provide a well-researched plan that considers both long-term and in-kind costs to school districts. Unless this happens, there will be a continual escalation of costs.*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New York State Mandate Relief Council, Governor, Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, Assembly Speaker and Minority Leader, and the members of the Senate and Assembly representing Westchester and Putnam Counties.

Signature  /s/ Jill Spieler President, Board of Education,  
Title  Scarsdale UFSD Date  April 16, 2012