



Lake County Superintendents Association

P.O. Box 274 Grayslake, IL 60030

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NEWS RELEASE

Lake County Superintendents Seek Community Support in Opposing Pending Legislation

November 1, 2011 (Lake County, IL) -- The Lake County Superintendents Association is seeking community support in opposing House Bill 3793 (HB3793). The intent of HB3793 is to limit the tax extension of districts that have experienced a decline in EAV in the previous year to that previous year's tax extension. EAV has declined for the past two years in most Lake County Districts and it is predicted to decline again next year.

Several education organizations are working together to educate lawmakers about the potentially devastating impact of this bill, including: the Illinois Association of School Administrators; the Illinois Association of School Business Officials; the Illinois Association of School Boards; and the Illinois Association of Fire Chiefs. At this time, it is anticipated that this bill will be reviewed by the House on Tuesday, November 8th. Late Friday afternoon, members of the Lake County Superintendents Association committed to work with leaders throughout the county and the state to charter a bus to Springfield to oppose this legislation by filing statements and testimony on Tuesday, November 8th.

Dr. Catherine Finger, Superintendent of Grayslake Community High School District 127 and immediate Past President of Lake County Superintendents, had this to say: "I am pleased to see representatives from all education associations impacted by these potential revenue reductions working together to make sure our schools stay as strong as possible during these tough economic times. Should HB 3793 pass in its current form, Grayslake Community High School District 127 would lose approximately \$500,000 in the first year and a great deal more in the second year and beyond. Here at the local level in D127, we are working in concert with our local Fire, Park and Library Districts, and our local Village to reach out and educate our lawmakers on the unintended consequences of this legislation. While any tax relief in this climate would be welcome, this kind of reduction will have far reaching implications for all impacted districts, particularly at a time when school districts are receiving significant cuts in General State Aid and Transportation, as well as declining levels of reimbursement for Special Education and other state and federally mandated programs."

President of Lake County Superintendents Association and Superintendent of Waukegan Community School District #60, Dr. Donaldo R. Batiste, shares: "Waukegan would lose more than \$1 million in revenues over the next two years and this alone would likely lead to potential cuts and reductions in gifted and music programs, classroom technology, staffing, transportation, and a host of other programs that benefit students and staff of District 60. Each school district has developed a 2011-2012 Budget with revenue projections based upon our ability to implement a tax extension. We have already completed one-third of the school year and expended this portion of our revenue, primarily on personnel costs, to run our districts. Eliminating personnel and programs for children at this time is not a viable option. As legislators in Springfield prepare for a very important vote on this bill in the upcoming days, the Board of Education and I are encouraging staff members, parents and community members to join us in contacting state legislators and implore them not to support bills that would negatively affect education and reduce educational opportunities for students."

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More information on HB3793 can be found on the General Assembly's website. House Bill 3793: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocTypeID=HB&DocNum=3793&GAID=11&SessionID=84&LegID=61913>