269-26
October 13, 2026

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Township of West Orange is committed to ensuring that all students receive a thorough and efficient education, as required by the New Jersey Constitution; and

WHEREAS, West Orange Public Schools have experienced significant volatility in state aid over recent years, including a 36% increase in Local Fair Share since 2022–23 and a corresponding 37% decrease in Equalization Aid, driven largely by statewide formula changes and rising community income levels; and

WHEREAS, these shifts have reduced West Orange's state aid by tens of millions of dollars, despite stable enrollment and increasing needs in areas such as special education, transportation, and student services; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's recent budget proposals include important steps toward stabilizing the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA), including limiting year over year aid decreases, using multi-year averages for wealth calculations, and basing special education aid on actual district enrollment; and

WHEREAS, these proposed reforms would help ensure that West Orange's state aid more accurately reflects the district's real costs and prevents sudden, unpredictable reductions that strain local taxpayers and jeopardize essential educational programs; and

WHEREAS, permanent legislative modernization of SFRA is necessary to ensure long term stability, fairness, and adequacy for districts like West Orange that face rising costs and shifting Local Fair Share calculations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of West Orange, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey that the Township of West Orange urges the Governor and the New Jersey Legislature to adopt permanent reforms to modernize and stabilize the School Funding Reform Act, including measures that reduce aid volatility, improve special education funding accuracy, and ensure Local Fair Share calculations reflect true community economic conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of West Orange supports continued collaboration among state leaders, the New Jersey Department of Education, school districts, and municipal governments to ensure predictable, adequate funding for all students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor, the Commissioner of Education, and the representatives of the 27th Legislative District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be made available in the Clerk's office for reasonable inspection in accordance with applicable law.

Karen J. Carnevale, R.M.C., Municipal Clerk **Susan Scarpa, Council President**

Adopted: October 13, 2026