

## Letter to the Editor

### Give Taxpayers a Break.

On 4/14/2020 Robert Sanchez wrote an article titled: "DuPage County Board members appear to support a proposal to waive late fees for residents unable to pay their property taxes because of the COVID-19 pandemic." Then on 4/17/2020 a follow-up titled "DuPage schools concerned about impact of potential property tax delays." According to the second one, "A letter signed by 34 [school] superintendents asks county board members to consider 'important facts'... Educators are concerned that removing late penalties could lead to delayed revenue for districts and force several to do short-term borrowing just to make payroll."

That statement comes across as greedy and tone-deaf. Worse yet, I believe it is FALSE. The property tax money comes in June and September and must last all year. The low point for end-of-month cash-on-hand is normally the end of May. If they get their entire first installment on time, that is enough to last 6 months. Three months later they get the rest. So long as they get at least half of what is due by June 1 and again half of what is due by September 1, then the rest sometime during the year, they should be fine.

This year with schools closed, less should be spent on stipends for extra-curricular, utility bills, supplies, mileage reimbursement, bus transportation... Once back in school, the districts could easily cut from their budgets items like public-relations, staff-celebrations, gifts, donations, attending conventions, etc. Many taxpayers have been without pay or taken a cut in pay. Reading this proposal, the school districts are simply being asked to accept less interest on the reserves in the bank, while the county forgoes late penalties, and our neighbors who were hit hard by their business being ordered closed get a break.

Jan Shaw  
Wheaton  
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*p.s. Since a picture is worth a 1,000 words I attached one I create back in 2017 to include if possible.*

CUSD 200 end-of month total of all funds balance, last year (July 2016 – December 2017)



**Note: there is an excel file that I downloaded for the state of Illinois. The following is the header, followed by entries for DuPage County. I removed the school ID number and county columns and added the column for signed letter:**

Illinois State Board of Education  
 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)  
 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

Note: **Estimated Illinois Award = \$569,467,000. (minimum amount allocated to LEAs 90%)**

Estimated Preliminary Allocations  
 March 27, 2020

*Disclaimer: Final Allocations will not be determined until an award is issued by the US Dept of Education. The Preliminary Estimated Allocations are being provided to assist LEA Leaders in planning for the most effective use of the stabilization funds.*

District Name	Signed Letter	Rep	Sen	Cong	FY 20 Title I Final	% of Total	Preliminary Estimated Allocation
Bensenville SD 2	y	077	39	05	\$356,302	0.05784%	\$296,437
Addison SD 4	y	077	39	08	\$870,567	0.14132%	\$724,296
Wood Dale SD 7	y	045	23	08	\$196,630	0.03192%	\$163,593
Itasca SD 10		045	23	08	\$67,321	0.01093%	\$56,010
Medinah SD 11	y	045	23	08	\$78,050	0.01267%	\$64,936
Roselle SD 12	y	045	23	08	\$31,063	0.00504%	\$25,844
Bloomington SD 13		045	23	08	\$84,946	0.01379%	\$70,673
Marquardt SD 15	y	046	23	08	\$1,020,417	0.16565%	\$848,968
Queen Bee SD 16	y	046	23	08	\$335,101	0.05440%	\$278,798
Keeneyville SD 20		056	28	08	\$248,959	0.04041%	\$207,129
Benjamin SD 25	y	042	21	06	\$30,245	0.00491%	\$25,163
West Chicago ESD 33	y	049	25	06	\$946,203	0.15360%	\$787,223
Winfield SD 34	y	042	21	06	\$32,604	0.00529%	\$27,126
Glen Ellyn SD 41	y	048	24	06	\$339,520	0.05511%	\$282,474
Lombard SD 44	y	048	24	06	\$336,262	0.05459%	\$279,764
SD 45 DuPage County	y	046	23	08	\$612,835	0.09948%	\$509,867
Salt Creek SD 48	y	077	39	08	\$75,960	0.01233%	\$63,197

Butler SD 53	y	047	24	05	\$24,131	0.00392%	\$20,077
Downers Grove GSD 58	y	081	41	06	\$297,442	0.04828%	\$247,466
Maercker SD 60	y	047	24	06	\$170,335	0.02765%	\$141,716
Darien SD 61	y	081	41	06	\$189,259	0.03072%	\$157,460
Gower SD 62	y	082	41	11	\$84,017	0.01364%	\$69,901
Cass SD 63	y	082	41	11	\$64,778	0.01052%	\$53,894
Center Cass SD 66	y	082	41	11	\$41,562	0.00675%	\$34,579
Woodridge SD 68	y	085	43	11	\$369,628	0.06000%	\$307,524
Hinsdale Twp HSD 86	y	047	24	06	\$320,486	0.05202%	\$266,638
Glenbard Twp HSD 87	y	048	24	06	\$856,115	0.13897%	\$712,272
DuPage HSD 88	y	077	39	08	\$519,510	0.08433%	\$432,223
CCSD 89	y	048	24	06	\$154,224	0.02504%	\$128,312
CCSD 93	y	045	23	08	\$424,245	0.06887%	\$352,964
CHSD 94	y	049	25	06	\$372,937	0.06054%	\$310,277
CHSD 99	y	081	41	06	\$375,978	0.06103%	\$312,807
Fenton CHSD 100	y	077	39	05	\$223,569	0.03629%	\$186,005
Lake Park CHSD 108		045	23	08	\$231,985	0.03766%	\$193,007
CCSD 180	y	082	41	11	\$356,707	0.05790%	\$296,774
Hinsdale CCSD 181	y	082	41	06	\$104,633	0.01699%	\$87,053
CUSD 200		042	21	06	\$1,242,384	0.20168%	\$1,033,640
CUSD 201	y	047	24	06	\$158,774	0.02577%	\$132,097
Lisle CUSD 202		048	24	11	\$174,017	0.02825%	\$144,779
Naperville CUSD 203		041	21	11	\$1,016,917	0.16508%	\$846,056
Indian Prairie CUSD 204		084	42	11	\$1,344,897	0.21832%	\$1,118,929
Elmhurst SD 205	y	047	24	05	\$340,343	0.05525%	\$283,159
<b>All Illinois School Districts</b>					<b>\$616,023,729</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$512,520,296</b>
<b>Sum of DuPge Co. Districts</b>					<b>\$15,319,025</b>		<b>\$12,745,144</b>