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Jennifer Gaffney, Principal  
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***Sackets Harbor Central School District***

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**Board of Education**  
Gregg A. Townsend PE, President  
Stephen L. Swain, Vice President  
Christine M. Allen  
Dale R. Phillips  
Angela A. Green

**Resolution Regarding the Immediate Elimination of the Gap Elimination  
Adjustment**

**The following resolution was adopted by the Sackets Harbor Central School  
District Board of Education on March 18, 2014.**

**This Resolution calls upon the New York State Legislature and Governor to  
immediately eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment to Public Schools across  
New York State**

**Whereas:** The NYS Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) was implemented in 2010 as a one-time reduction in education aid to assist NYS balance its budget and the GEA has continued in every budget since then;

**Whereas:** The GEA since its inception has reduced state aid to the Sackets Harbor Central School District by \$2,066,711;

**Whereas:** This reduction in aid has resulted in a cost shift to the local property taxpayers in the Sackets Harbor Central School District; and

**Whereas:** This cost shift has resulted in unsustainable measures to balance the Sackets Harbor Central School District's budgets, including the reduction and elimination of school programs, personnel, and services, and the reduction and reliance on school district fund reserves;

**Whereas:** Efforts by the Sackets Harbor Central School District to sustain programs and services and contain budget expenditures are simultaneously

constrained by the NYS Property Tax Cap Legislation, unfunded and underfunded mandates and mandated implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards and Annual Professional Performance Review legislative requirements; and

**Whereas:** Adequate NYS funding is constitutionally mandated and essential to meet all mandates and obligations and to maintain the quality of education in the Sackets Harbor Central School District; and

**Whereas:** New York State, through its Gap Elimination Adjustment, has systematically reduced K-12 funding since 2010-2011; and

**Whereas:** The Sackets Harbor Central School District has increased its annual operating budget by only 1.19% over the last five budget cycles (0.238% average annual increase); and

**Whereas:** The Sackets Harbor Central School District's NYS State Aid as a source of operating revenue has seen significant decreases. In 2000 the operating budget was funded at 60% from NYS State Aid, while in 2014 the budget is funded by 42% from NYS State Aid; and

**Whereas:** The Sackets Harbor Central School District has levied annual local property tax increases an average of 1.86% (all under the 2% Tax Cap threshold), since 2009, long before the legislation went into effect; and

**Whereas:** The cost to educate a student at Sackets Harbor Central School District in general and special education classes continues to be less than that of the NYS Average cost and Schools of Similar size; and

**Whereas:** The Sackets Harbor Central School District Board of Education and entire school community have worked to sustain our school district and afford the constitutionally guaranteed public education to all students during this continued time of economic crisis; and

**Whereas:** The Sackets Harbor Central School District is faced with significant revenue shortfalls as a result of the continued Gap Elimination Adjustment in the


proposed 2014-15 Governor's Budget NYS State Aid runs in the amount of \$401,540 : and

**Resolved:** that the Sackets Harbor Central School District Board of Education calls upon the New York State Legislature to immediately exempt State Aid for education from the calculation of the Gap Elimination Adjustment.

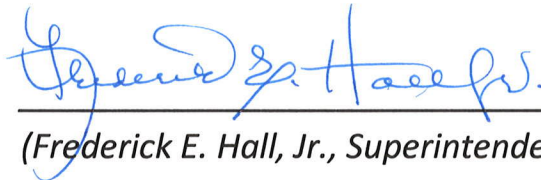
*Passed and adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014 during its regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting by the following vote:*

AYES: 4 NOES: 0 ABSENT: 1

**Attest:**



(Gregg A. Townsend, BOE President)



(Frederick E. Hall, Jr., Superintendent of Schools)



(Sheri Rose, BOE District Clerk)