

# Illinois PTA Resolution Update: 2009 Resolution on Tax Increment Financing Districts

## **TIFs: That's Income For Schools!**

What are TIFs? Actually TIFs – short for Tax Increment Financing - are a means of earmarking property tax revenue and allocating those funds for economic development projects in economically blighted or underdeveloped areas.

TIFs, when used well, can have an enormous benefit to those communities. However, they also divert funds – sometimes desperately needed ones – from local taxing bodies, including school districts!

Where does the Illinois PTA stand on TIFs? The Illinois PTA made a statement with our [2009 Resolution on Tax Increment Financing Districts](#), and continues to do so with our [Continuing Position](#) on the issue: the Illinois PTA supports changes in Tax Increment Financing districts that would:

- allow Illinois school districts to have the option of excluding their property tax revenue from TIF funding, or
- require municipalities and school districts to agree to a fair share of the TIF district's benefits from its beginning!

Is your school district suffering deep cuts while your public funds are diverted to non-public interests? Chicago, in one recent example, is sustaining devastating budget cuts to their public school system with dozens of elementary schools closing and over 2,000 teachers and staff cut,<sup>1</sup> while at the same time a portion of TIF funds – tens of millions of dollars - are being proposed to help a private college build a sports arena!<sup>2 3</sup>

Is your area a TIF district? Go to the Illinois Comptroller's website to the section concerning [local government division and TIFs](#) to find out more. You may also click on this [link to view submitted TIF reports by district and year](#).

Is your area compliant with the state's filing requirements concerning TIFs? You can find out by clicking here for the Illinois Comptroller's [list of non-compliant districts](#). For Cook County residents, including Chicago, the [Cook County Clerk prepared a video report for 2012 concerning the TIFs](#) in your area.

Do you want to bring this discussion to your PTA? An informative and short [video concerning the purpose – and concerns – with TIFs – that you can share with your members](#)<sup>4</sup> is available on "youtube" from the Cook County Clerk's office. (And, yes, there is a benefit to watching it regardless of where you live in Illinois.)

Is this issue impacting your school district? Do the PTAs in your school district want to speak out on this issue? Just go to [Capwiz on the Illinois PTA](#) website to find your local officials.

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<sup>1</sup>Ahmed-Ullah, Noreen S. "Hits to Classroom Exceed CPS Estimates." Chicago Tribune. N.p., 31 July 2013. Web. 20 Aug. 2013.

<sup>2</sup>"CPS Officials Take Heat on Budget Cuts at Public Hearing." - Chicago Sun-Times. N.p., 1 Aug. 2013. Web. 20 Aug. 2013.

<sup>3</sup>Esposito, Stephanie, and Meenakshi Dalal. "Protesters Want City Funds Directed to CPS, Not New DePaul Arena." - Chicago Sun-Times. Chicago Sun Times, 21 June 2013. Web. 20 Aug. 2013.

<sup>4</sup>Orr, David, Cook County Clerk. "Understanding TIFs." YouTube. Cook County Clerk, 11 July 2013. Web. 20 Aug. 2013.