

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 160

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2026

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ALEX SAUICKIE

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Governor to dedicate Meta settlement funds to support certain school districts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the Governor to dedicate Meta
2 settlement funds for school funding.

3
4 **WHEREAS,** In August 2026, New Jersey, along with 50 other states
5 and territories, entered into a settlement agreement with Meta
6 Platforms, Inc., through which the company will remit up to \$17.1
7 billion in settlement payments to the states and territories; and

8 **WHEREAS,** The State of New Jersey is set to receive at least \$525
9 million, and could receive over \$752 million, as a result of
10 payments from this settlement; and

11 **WHEREAS,** The plaintiff States claim that Meta knowingly exploited
12 minors with intentionally addictive social media platforms, exposed
13 young users to serious mental harm, and intentionally misled the
14 public about the safety of its platforms; and

15 **WHEREAS,** According to a study conducted by the University of
16 Delaware's College of Education and Human Development,
17 children engaging in frequent social media use are more likely to
18 experience decreased academic achievement compared to their
19 peers; and

20 **WHEREAS,** Due to the nature of this settlement, it is fitting that these
21 funds be distributed in a way that helps to uplift and empower the
22 children in this State who have been, or still are, affected by the
23 consequences of Meta's alleged actions; and

24 **WHEREAS,** Using this settlement's proceeds to provide aid to school
25 districts helps to ensure that children are receiving the thorough and
26 efficient education that they deserve; and

27 **WHEREAS,** While all school districts educate children affected by
28 Meta's alleged actions, there is an acute need to support students in
29 districts that are spending below adequacy, as calculated for each
30 school district under current law; and

31 **WHEREAS,** These school districts may be more likely to face
32 particularly significant financial difficulties, and many of them may
33 be forced to cut staff, reduce student support services, and eliminate
34 extracurricular programs, all of which are critical in supporting a
35 student's academic achievement, social-emotional learning and
36 development, and mental health; and

37 **WHEREAS,** It is critical that the Governor utilizes these funds to
38 address substantial school budget deficits among these school
39 districts and ensure that the districts are able to retain staff and
40 continue various academic, student support, and extracurricular
41 programming, all of which are important in supporting youth
42 mental health and academic achievement; now, therefore,

43
44 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
45 *Jersey:*

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47 1. This House respectfully urges the Governor to dedicate funds
48 received from the settlement entered with Meta Platforms, Inc. in

1 August 2026 to school districts that are spending below adequacy,
2 as calculated pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2018, c.67 (C.18A:7F-70),
3 thereby ensuring that children in these districts can benefit from
4 services and supports that improve student mental health and
5 academic achievement.

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7 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
8 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
9 Governor and the Commissioner of Education.

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11
12 STATEMENT

13
14 This resolution urges the Governor to dedicate funds received
15 from the Meta Platforms, Inc. settlement to support school funding
16 in certain school districts. The plaintiff States claim that Meta
17 knowingly exploited minors with intentionally addictive social
18 media platforms, exposed young users to serious mental harms, and
19 intentionally misled the public about the safety of its platforms. As
20 a result, Meta is paying up to \$17.1 billion in a multistate settlement
21 with 51 states and territories, including New Jersey. New Jersey is
22 set to receive \$525 million and could receive over \$752 million.

23 Due to the nature of this settlement, it is fitting that these funds
24 be distributed in a way that helps to uplift and empower the children
25 in this State who have been, or still are, affected by the
26 consequences of Meta's alleged actions. While all school districts
27 educate children affected by Meta's alleged actions, there is an
28 acute need to support students in districts that are spending below
29 adequacy, as calculated for each school district under current law.
30 These school districts may be more likely to face particularly
31 significant financial difficulties which can disrupt a student's
32 academic achievement, social-emotional learning and development,
33 and mental health. It is critical that the Governor utilizes these
34 funds to address substantial school budget deficits among these
35 school districts to support youth mental health and academic
36 achievement.