

# TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS IS IN IMMINENT DANGER

THANKS TO THE SHORT-SIGHTED PROVISIONS OF SENATE BILL S2, THE DISTRICT HAS LOST \$7.5 MILLION IN STATE AID SO FAR, WITH MORE THAN **\$90 MILLION IN CATASTROPHIC STATE AID CUTS** ON THE WAY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.



## WHAT'S AT STAKE?

- ✂ **JOBS**-- We expect to have to cut **300 MORE staff positions** over the next five years; we've already eliminated more than 100 positions the past four years.
- ✂ **CO-CURRICULARS**-- All non-mandated programs. Athletic programs, band, plays, musicals, robotics, and more **WILL BE CUT** entirely as soon as 2020-2021.
- ✂ **SERVICES**-- Including hazardous **busing**. Services will be cut 10% every year.
- ✂ **FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN**-- A huge district initiative installed in 2015 **will be lost**. No half-day. Kindergarten, gone. Altogether.
- ✂ **CLASS SIZES**-- Class loads increasing to **30-40 students**.
- ✂ **TOMS RIVER, SOUTH TOMS RIVER, BEACHWOOD, PINE BEACH**-- Schools represent a town's quality of life and its **future**. These cuts will render our schools inoperable. Plain and simple.

## WHY EVERY CITIZEN SHOULD BE **OUTRAGED**:

The funding formula has always been critically flawed, and the "revised" version is even worse. It does not consider that WE ARE:

- among the lowest in total spending and administrative costs in the state
- already operating at \$37 million under adequacy
- still recovering from Superstorm Sandy including \$300 million in tax base.
- the largest employer in Ocean County

**Our students, teachers, and residents will NOT be the collateral damage of a critically-flawed system.**



... and we ARE in serious, urgent  
**TROUBLE!**

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Turn over for FAQs and info.

## FAQs

### Why is the state reducing Toms River Regional Schools' funding, and why is it an urgent crisis?

Bill S2 is being promoted as a measure to move money from "overfunded" school districts to "underfunded" districts. However, the formula they are using to distinguish between "over" and "under" funded schools is critically flawed: 1) it does not factor billions of dollars in Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs); 2) the property wealth figures it relies on include 25+ towns that have not had legally-required property revaluations in more than 25 years; and 3) the calculations are impossible to verify without the state disclosing how it allocates \$6.5 billion in Equalization Aid, which to this point the NJDOE has refused to do. The aid cuts in Bill S2 are unjust and unfair as a whole, but are especially draconian to Toms River Regional Schools, which is essentially being punished for operating at maximum efficiency and with a bare minimum of state support over the past decade. As the sixth largest district in NJ already functioning at more than \$37 million under adequacy, it is not an exaggeration to say that losing in excess of \$90 million more will render us **incapacitated**.

★Our primary goal is to restore our funding in full.

★Our larger goal is a revision of the funding formula that would provide equitable distribution of state funding to ALL school districts, not just ours.

### What has the district done to combat the state aid cuts in this bill?

1) Toms River Regional Schools is part of a **lawsuit** opposing the aid cuts in S2. The complaint was filed in collaboration with other school districts that, like TRRS, have the support of their town councils through adopted resolutions to oppose to the bill. 2) We are a member of the Save Our Students (S.O.S.) coalition of 80+ districts fighting the aid cuts in this bill. 3) We've rallied on Trenton. Twice. 4) We've issued formal letters to our school community and resolutions to NJ reps and the governor, and hand-delivered 30,000 student- and staff-written letters to legislators. 5) We've met directly with state representatives. 6) We've produced and distributed public videos outlining our plight. 7) Our superintendent and business administrator have testified at two Senate budget hearings. 8) We've hosted press conferences and issued numerous releases to media contacts. 9) We formally invited Gov. Murphy, Sen. Sweeney, Assemb. Coughlin, and Commissioner Repollet to Toms River to answer our questions. No one responded.

### We've been through this before, haven't we? The schools always seem to figure a way out, so we'll be fine ... won't we?

We won't. Not unless something in Trenton changes. Despite our relentless efforts, there is no solution in sight.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Write, call, tweet, contact, and pester our New Jersey representatives and decision-makers.

Here, we'll help:



**Gov. Phil Murphy**

Constituent.relations@nj.gov > 609-292-6000 >  
@GovMurphy (Twitter)

**Sen. Steve Sweeney**

sensweeney@njleg.org > 856-251-9801 >  
@NJSenatePres

**NJDOE Commissioner Dr. Lamont Repollet**

Lamont.Repollet@doe.nj.gov > 609-376-3500 >  
@DrLRepollet

**Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver**

lt.governor@nj.gov > 609-292-6000 >  
@LtGovOliver

**Assemblyman Craig Coughlin**

AsmCoughlin@njleg.org > 732-855-7441 >  
@SpeakerCoughlin



## Who Supports Our Fight?

### Legislative District 10

Sen. Jim Holzapfel, Assemblyman Greg McGuckin,  
Assemblyman David Wolfe > @jimholzapfel

### Toms River Police Department

@TomsRiverPolice

### New Jersey Education Association

NJEA President Marie Blistan > @MarieBlistan  
and Toms River Education Association (TREA)

### The Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce

@gtrchamber

### Ocean County Prosecutor's Office

Prosecutor Brad Billhimer > @OCPONJ

### NJ Association of School Administrators

@NJASANews

### NJ Association of School Business Officials

### NJ Principals and Supervisors Association

Education Law Center > @EdLawCenter

NJ Parent Teacher Association > @NJPTA

80+ New Jersey school districts and counting  
which comprise the Support Our Students (SOS)  
coalition and advocacy group > @NJ\_SOS

#WeAreTRschools