

March 22, 2021

Dear Toms River Regional Schools families:

Your support and action are needed.

Please join Toms River Regional Schools along with more than 200 other districts calling on Governor Murphy to ensure all 1.4 million students receive educational programming and services they deserve including fair and equitable funding.

New Jersey's current school funding plan, reflected in Senate Bill 2 (S2) is flawed and unfair, with dire and long-term consequences for half a million children in public school districts of every size and socioeconomic makeup, including rural, urban, suburban communities. S2's flawed and arbitrary formula does not achieve balance and equity among our schools and children. It has established a false perception of haves and have nots. Therefore, Toms River Regional Schools is requesting Governor Murphy to:

- Pause funding cuts in the current budget cycle and allocate new education funding to districts that have been historically underfunded
- Extend the S2 timeline from the current 7 years
- Review and update the 13-year-old antiquated funding formula.
- Work with the legislature to enact legislation that will enable districts being negatively impacted by S2 who are under adequacy to exceed the 2% tax levy.

If a proper solution is not found, district programs will be slashed or potentially dismantled. The impact on Toms River Regional Schools will be:

1. A loss of \$8.1 million for 2021-2022
2. Funding loss of nearly \$200k from Chapter 44 which increases net insurance costs
3. Moving further below the state funding bar, as TRRS is already operating at \$38 million under adequacy
4. An actualized loss of more than \$126 million in funding throughout the 7-year schedule provided by the DOE, which is \$43 million more than the originally-scheduled loss of \$83 million

The time for talking about a solution is over. It is time to take action, which is why we are reaching out to our community to help in this effort.

As we advocate for fair funding, each of the 200+ districts will participate in a district and state-wide coordinated legislative day.

On **Wednesday, March 24**, we are asking all Toms River Regional Schools families to contact the Governor's Office, the Senate President's Office, the Assembly Speaker's Office, and Education Committee leaders via email and phone calls. The voices of Toms River Regional Schools families need to be heard at the state level.

Please support this effort by taking just 5 minutes of your day and click on this link:

[https://actionnetwork.org/letters/our-children-need-your-help?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/our-children-need-your-help?source=direct_link&)

which will send a pre-populated email with your information to the Governor and all legislators listed on the attached.

***AND***

Call their offices the same day. Their respective phone numbers are attached. You will reach their assistant, so you can leave the message outlined below.

We greatly appreciate your attention to this matter, as it impacts every student in our district.

Thank you and regards

- Phone Call Statement to GOVERNOR MURPHY - 1-609-292-6000

Good day, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ from Toms River Regional Schools.

I'm calling to request that Governor Murphy pause funding cuts in the current budget cycle and allocate new education funding to underfunded districts. The School Funding Formula is over 13 years old and needs to be updated to provide for a fair and equitable formula. My district will lose \$126 million due to this antiquated formula. He needs to work with the legislature to enact legislation that will enable districts to exceed the 2% tax levy if negatively impacted by S2 and he needs to reassess why some districts are receiving more than \$10,000 per student and others like our district are losing more than \$562 per student in 2021-2022 alone.

New Jersey's Constitution requires the Legislature to provide for a thorough and efficient educational system for all children in NJ; therefore, you have a responsibility to ensure that districts are not crippled by insufficient state aid. Thank you for your consideration.

1. Phone Call Statement to Contacts below - Please call **all** Leaders of Senate and Assembly and at **least the Chair and 1 member** of each Education Committee if not all.

Good day, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ from Toms River Regional Schools.

I'm calling to request that **<NAME OF LEGISLATOR YOU'RE CALLING>** decline Governor Murphy's Education budget. My district will lose \$126 million due to the antiquated 13-year-old School Funding Formula. This formula needs to be updated to provide districts with fair and equitable funding. Please work to enact legislation that will enable districts to exceed the 2% tax levy if negatively impacted by S2 and reassess why some districts are receiving more than \$10,000 per student and others like our district is losing more than \$562 per student in 2021-2022 alone. New Jersey's Constitution requires the Legislature to provide for a thorough and efficient educational system for all children in NJ; therefore, you have a responsibility to ensure that districts are not crippled by insufficient state aid. Thank you for your consideration.

### **Leaders of the Senate and Assembly**

**President of the Senate:** Stephen M. Sweeney; 856-251-9801

**Speaker of the General Assembly:** Craig Coughlin; 732-855-7441

**Chairman of Senate Budget Committee:** Paul Sarlo 201-804-8118

**Chairwoman Assembly Budget Committee:** Eliana Pintor Marin - 973 589 0713

### **Senate Education Committee**

**CHAIR - Ruiz, M. Teresa** 973-484-1000

2.Beach, James 856-429-1572

4.Doherty, Michael 908-835-0552

1.Turner, Shirley - Vice-Chair 609-323-7239

3.Cunningham, Sandra 201-451-5100

5.Thompson, Samuel 732-607-7580

### **Assembly Education Committee**

**CHAIR:** Lampitt, Pamela 856-435-1247

2.Caputo, Ralph 973-450-0484

4.Simonsen, Erik 609-778-2012

1.Jasey, Mila - Vice-Chair 973-762-1886

3.Quijano, Annette 908-327-9119

5.Stanfield, Jean 609-667-7360