



**TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS**  
DAVID M. HEALY  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
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April 29, 2019

Dear Governor Phil Murphy, Senate President Steve Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and Commissioner of Education Lamont Repollet:

On behalf of Toms River Regional Schools, I'd like to formally invite each of you to Toms River to meet with our community and discuss the state aid cuts contained in Senate Bill S2.

As each of you well know, the state aid cuts in S2 have had and will continue to have a devastating impact on our school district; the towns of Beachwood, Pine Beach, South Toms River, and Toms River that it serves; and Ocean County, in which the school district is the largest employer. In other words, our schools are our community.

While we have watched in the media as Governor Murphy and others visit school districts that benefit from S2-- districts, by the way, we support and applaud-- we believe it's imperative that our community be provided an opportunity to hear your explanations firsthand regarding a bill that will have the opposite effect here.

Unfortunately for Toms River, terms like "devastating" are not hyperbolic when it comes to the impact of S2 on this district. Beyond an explanation, we look to be offered solutions to what appears to be an otherwise untenable situation. Simply put, we're not sure how a district that serves more than 15,500 students and employs 2,700 staff members (for now) can endure \$83 million in cumulative losses over the next six years while retaining any semblance of its identity and infrastructure.

I have met with most of you personally or through your offices, and I have tremendous respect for your leadership and the difficult decisions you're forced to make on a daily basis. As chief officer of this school district and a voice for these communities, I must now defer to your leadership and seek your guidance in navigating what amounts to a fiscal crisis, one for which I simply don't have the answers that this district and community deserve.

Please know this request is sincere and in good faith. We will foster a respectful, courteous, and productive environment. Negativity and hostility do not beget solutions, which is why we've made great strides to avoid both throughout this ordeal. We will gladly make accommodations for your visit-- either individually or as a group-- at one of our facilities. As an urgent matter, however, we request your response as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

David M. Healy, Superintendent, Toms River Regional Schools

Cc: Toms River Board of Education  
District 10, Senator James W. Holzapfel, Assemblymen Gregory P. McGuckin, David W. Wolfe  
District 9, Senator Christopher Connors, Assemblyman Brian E. Rumpf, Assemblywoman DiAnne C. Gove  
Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders