



TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS

DAVID M. HEALY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Dear Toms River Regional Schools community members:

On Tuesday, December 10, thousands of us-- students, parents, board members and district staff, business owners, and everyday Toms River residents-- traveled to Trenton in order to get the attention of Governor Phil Murphy and NJ lawmakers who hold the power to restore our state funding and revise the formula on which Bill S2 is based. In doing so, we most certainly grabbed the attention of local media, and the [coverage of our efforts](#) was extensive and overwhelmingly positive.

The short- and long-term impact of the Rally to Save Toms River remains to be seen, but what is clear as day is the unity of this community and the quality of our collective character. I am tremendously proud of our students, whose righteous indignation was displayed with creativity, passion, and civility. Our message was heard loud and clear, and the positive impression we left on Trenton and on all who were present will resonate, and serve to enhance our reputation as a community that is equally strong-willed and respectful.

I am proud of our parents and community members who rearranged their schedules and altered their daily routines to come and fight on behalf of our children's future. And I am proud of our board, my administrative colleagues, our faculty and staff, our PTOs, and supportive partnering organizations like Toms River Police Department and others who provided leadership, guidance, talent, and hours upon hours of work to help make Tuesday a success.

We did not ask to be placed in this position, and I understand how easy it is to become frustrated and fatigued. But throughout this ordeal our message has been clear, well-documented, and supported by the hard facts, and I am further emboldened by the level of support I witnessed from this community yet again on Tuesday. From the bottom of my heart, *thank you* to everyone who attended Tuesday's Rally to Save Toms River, and to every single person who played a role in making it happen.

We should all be proud of the work we've accomplished on behalf of our students, and that work continues unabated until our funding is restored. Our rallying cry and hashtag says it all: #WeAreTRschools!

"Unity is strength ... when there is teamwork and collaboration wonderful things can be achieved." - Mattie J.T. Stepanek

Sincerely,

David M. Healy, Superintendent of Schools