



TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS

MICHAEL CITTA

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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To our Toms River Regional Schools staff, parents, and families:

Yesterday the New Jersey Department of Education [announced](#) that it has taken upon itself the action to impose a 9.9-percent tax increase on this community, an increase our **Toms River Regional Schools Board of Education had previously and summarily rejected**. What does this mean?

For one thing, it means we are still more than \$12 million short of a balanced budget for this school year, which is part of the reason our school board rejected this measure in the first place. Therefore, we are continuing the pursuit of liquidating assets, and are in the process of appraising certain community assets that do NOT directly impact schools or student programs. Some examples include the office building at 1144 Hooper Avenue and the transportation yard that houses the largest board-owned bus fleet in the state, among other ancillary properties.

As I promised in my public statements July 3, we are utilizing all legal channels to correct the funding failures of the NJDOE. Rest assured that as we pursue these routes, all student programs remain intact for the 2024-2025 school year. Please also know that, in light of this latest action by the state, it's more important than ever for our community to remain united in order to protect our children's futures, and for our residents and families to sign on for and support the battle we are undertaking. My promise to you remains that we will not relent, and I wholeheartedly appreciate your patience, understanding, resilience, and support as we fight for the future of the greater Toms River community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Citta
Superintendent of Schools