



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

BROADCAST

March 23, 2021

Good Afternoon,

I trust this email finds you all well. I want to take an opportunity to provide you some historical background on New Jersey School District funding **as well as a community action opportunity**. Although we are very pleased with projected allocations for next year through state and federal funds, this information below can help you understand how and why the school funding conversation is so important and how it impacts all New Jersey's public schools, including Haddon Township. I have created a summarized timeline for simplicity, hoping that this background information helps you understand part of our school district's past and current financial landscape.

- In the fall of 2018, the S-2 bill was approved, which essentially attempted to re-balance and redistribute state aid allotments between school districts that had declining enrollment versus those where enrollment had increased. All school districts deemed to be "overfunded" were informed of a projected 7-year decline in state aid that would phase-in. At this time, **Haddon Township was not identified as an S2 district**, with no decrease or increase expected. More detailed information can be found here <https://www.njsba.org/news-publications/school-leader/november-december-2018-vol-49-no-3/state-aid-for-schools-explained/>
- However, on July 13th, 2018, the Haddon Township School District **was informed that a decrease in state aid in the amount of -\$359k would occur for the upcoming school year due to an enrollment decline, and we were forced to eliminate positions and programs that had already been approved**. During this time period, our school district joined a coalition with 130 other school districts from around the state known as NJSOS (New Jersey Support Our Students). Essentially, this coalition is fighting higher amounts of school funding for all New Jersey School Districts, not just the have or have not's in terms of enrollment.
- In March of 2019, **another -\$120K in state aid was announced for Haddon Township Schools** for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Tomorrow, March 24th, the New Jersey Support Our Students Organization is calling

for all New Jersey citizens who care about public education to contact the Governor's Office, the

Senate President's Office, the Assembly Speaker's Office, and Education Committee leaders to advocate for an improved long term solution for our state's school funding formula which many believe is unfair. You can support this effort by taking just 5 minutes of your day to 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.

If you choose to participate, you will essentially support all of the recommendations below (feel free to cut and paste).

- Pause funding cuts in the current budget cycle and allocate new education funding to historically underfunded districts
- Extend the S2 timeline from the current 7 years - Review and update the 13-year-old antiquated funding formula.
- Increase school funding for all New Jersey Public Schools, not just those who have been deemed as "underfunded" because of increasing enrollment.
- Advocate for more long term funding for the Haddon Township School District More information about NJSOS can be found here https://twitter.com/nj_sos?lang=en

One additional benefit to a revised state funding formula will also provide our school district with more stability to plan from year to year without worrying about unpredictable state figures each March tied to enrollment fluctuations.

I hope that you find this update and information useful, and have a great day. -
Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed.D. Superintendent