

March 22, 2021

Dear Lacey Township School District Families:

Your support and action are needed! Please join the Lacey Township School District 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, and 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, the Lacey Township School District 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.

If a proper solution is not found, district programs will be slashed or potentially dismantled. The impact on the Lacey Township School District will be:

1. A loss of \$1.3 million for the 2021-2022 school year.
2. Funding loss of over \$400,000 annually due to an increase in insurance costs.
3. A scheduled loss of more than \$5.6 million in funding throughout the 7-year schedule provided by the DOE.

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 Thursday, March 24, we are asking all Lacey Township School District 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 Lacey Township School District 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&, 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.

Our state's exceptional public schools, literally first in the nation, are a point of pride and build strong communities. As a state, we have made the choice to invest in our children, in our future, and theirs. I support my community and our public schools and expect—demand—the same support from our elected officials.

The future of every New Jersey child cannot and should not wait. We look forward to your immediate action.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Vanessa P. Clark, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Donna McAvoy
Board President

Michael Ryan
LTEA President

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

Good day, my name is _____ from the Lacey Township School District.

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 \$5.6 million in funding 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 \$1500 per student.

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.

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

Good day, my name is _____ from the Lacey Township School District.

I'm calling to request that **<NAME OF LEGISLATOR YOU'RE CALLING>** decline Governor Murphy's Education budget. My district will lose \$5.6 million in funding 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 \$1500. 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

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

Beach, James 856-429-1572

Cunningham, Sandra 201-451-5100

Doherty, Michael 908-835-0552

Thompson, Samuel 732-607-7580

Assembly Education Committee

CHAIR: Lampitt, Pamela 856-435-1247

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

Caputo, Ralph 973-450-0484

Quijano, Annette 908-327-9119

Simonsen, Erik 609-778-2012

Stanfield, Jean 609-667-7360