

Legislative Support Needed

Fairly fund ALL 1.4 million of New Jersey's students to ensure the education of the whole child

- Slow down, or suspend, S-2 until a study of the school funding formula is conducted
- Revisit school funding formula to reflect what schools are currently providing as a thorough and efficient education, not the definition from 2008
- Department of Education to provide transparency in the determination of equalization aid
- Reduce the disproportionate burden on Jefferson Township taxpayers

19-20 Budget Response

Our district has responded to crippling losses in school aid by taking the following actions. These actions have had the impact of eroding the instructional and extra-curricular programs in our district.

- Eliminated instructional and support positions
- Removed all facility improvement projects from operating budget
- Reduced supply accounts
- Reduced staff professional development spending
- Discontinued upgrades to student laptops, impacting overall technology device management program
- Postponed purchase of two buses, impacting overall fleet management program
- Realigned central office and building support staff
- Initiated tuition for our inclusive preschool disabled program
- Implemented a parking fee for High School student drivers

Budget Challenges

- Estimated cumulative loss over 7 years will exceed \$38 million dollars
- Drastic and unpredictable increases in health care, costs have increased 67.5% over the past 10 years
- Increase in the number of homeless students (tuition, transportation)
- Increase in the number of special education students enrolling in our district (teachers, aides, transportation)
- Increase in the number of students at vocational schools due to the number of satellite academies (no State aid received, increased tuition & transportation costs)
- Increase in the number of students sent for evaluations: risk to self/others, chemical screens, etc.

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