

THE TINTON FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
658 TINTON AVENUE
TINTON FALLS, NJ 07724
(732) 460-2400
FAX (732) 542-1158
<http://tfs.k12.nj.us>

John P. Russo
Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth W. Cole
Director of Special Services

Tamar R. Sydney-Gens
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Press Release

On Thursday, June 15th, Senate President Stephen Sweeney and State Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto announced a school funding plan for New Jersey public schools that would be devastating to the Tinton Falls School District as well as many other districts in Monmouth County. The plan calls for a sharp cut in state aid of \$224,352 for the upcoming school year. Additionally, the plan also calls for more cuts next year and the year after. This plan intends to take away current funding from some districts and redistribute it to others. This may solve one problem but it only creates another. Rather than develop a plan that is helpful to all, this plan creates winners and losers. The State Legislature intends to vote on this ill-conceived plan immediately.

The Tinton Falls School District, like all districts, has already developed an operating budget which has been approved by the NJ Department of Education for the upcoming school year. The budget, which has been in development since October, would need to be dismantled if this school funding plan moves forward. A new budget would need to be developed in a matter of weeks rather than months. Many things would be on the line to be considered for elimination, including teaching positions, classroom supplies, textbooks, classroom technology and facility improvements.

In 2009-2010, State aid for the Tinton Falls School District was reduced by \$1,308,126

It has taken seven years of thoughtful budget preparation and planning to position our district so that our students are able to receive the best possible education. This plan would dramatically set our academic programs back with no mechanism to recover.

Tinton Falls faces housing development on Fort Monmouth in the upcoming years and has seen an increase in free and reduced lunch eligibility, English as a Second Language students and special education needs. The Sweeney/Prieto school funding plan does not take into account the local needs of the Tinton Falls School District. The State Legislature is faced with an important challenge. There are school districts that are underfunded because State Aid has remained flat for nearly a decade. A plan that solves one problem only to create another across the state should not be acceptable.

The link below shows a chart prepared by the Office of Legislative Service which shows the aid reduction under the Sweeney/Prieto plan for districts throughout the state. Column four indicates the reduction in State aid.

<https://www.njsba.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/state-aid-run-june15.pdf>

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Please contact your local District 11 State Legislators NOW and ask them to vote NO to the Sweeney/Prieto plan.

District 11 Legislators and Contacts:

Assemblywoman Joann Downey LD-11

Phone: 732-695-3371 AswDowney@nileg.org

Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling LD-11

Phone: 732-695-3371 AsmHughtaling@nileg.org

Senator Jennifer Beck LD-11

Phone: 732-933-1591 SenBeck@nileg.org

Thank you for taking action now.

Peter Karavites, Board of Education President

John Russo, Tinton Falls School District Superintendent