

THE FAIRNESS FORMULA

Join the Movement

#FairnessFormula #EqualFunding4EveryChild #EquityforNJFamilies

What They're Saying:

"Our homeowners and seniors need property tax relief now, not another empty promise for tax relief five years from now."

Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi: "There are two school funding proposals on the table. The governor's plan will reduce property taxes and encourage efficiencies in the classroom and administration of our schools. Sweeney's idea once again delays any meaningful reform until at least the next legislative session, and in the best case scenario, would take five years to fully implement. (Press Release, 7/28/16)

- "Our homeowners and seniors need property tax relief now, not another empty promise for tax relief five years from now. For decades, we have been pouring taxpayer money by the billions into a handful of chronically failing districts. How is it possible to be spending more than \$33,000 per year for a child's education with less than a 67 percent graduation rate? Difficult discussions need to take place. All children need to receive the proper education, but merely wasting upwards of \$33,000 per year per student on a broken educational system is unsound. If we were actually educating students in these districts receiving billions, I would possibly consider it money well spent. Unfortunately, the money is not making it into the classroom."
- "Under the fairness plan, districts will receive \$6,599 of state aid per student, with additional funding for special needs children. State aid will be increased to approximately 580 districts in the state, and in particular to Bergen and Passaic counties by 500 percent, while reducing the average homeowner's property taxes by more than \$2,000. Working families and seniors are being forced out of our state by unaffordable property taxes. They need help now."

Senator Robert Singer: "I believe the Fairness Formula, which treats all students equally, is the right approach for our schools and the most affordable plan for New Jersey taxpayers." (Sen. Robert Singer, Fairness Formula Fair To All, [Asbury Park Press](#), 8/18/16)

Assemblyman Scott Rumana: "Senator Sweeney's funding plan is unaffordable. Taxpayers will pay an additional \$600 million to \$2 billion annually in addition to the \$3.1 billion more per year he wants to spend on the pension fund. Where is Senator Sweeney going to get this money? He'll do what his party

always does - raise taxes on middle class families. The alternative is to cut spending by \$5 billion to balance the budget and we know he won't do that. The Sweeney plan is a continuation of the broken promises of past reforms and could lead us towards a budget disaster. We don't need another committee to study how to distribute education aid. We need the funding fairness the governor is proposing. It's a reasonable and responsible solution that will provide real tax relief for homeowners." (Press Release, 7/28/16)

Assemblyman David Wolfe: "Equal per-pupil funding will ensure that every student, regardless of address, is treated the same. I sponsored the governor's fairness formula because it will provide every student with equal funding from the state for their education. Senator Sweeney's plan is another complex formula from Trenton that dictates winners and losers and promises to spend more without any plan for how to pay for the increase. Our funding plan will give all students the opportunity to succeed while reducing the highest-in-the-nation property tax rates that have plagued homeowners for years. (Press Release, 7/28/16)

Haworth Mayor John Smart: "By any assessment, the current funding method has not produced the desired results, such as improved graduation rates and readiness for work or college, and no one has been held accountable for this failure. Instead of continuing to throw more money into a failed system, the governor has taken the lead by calling for a halt to the ineffectiveness and to distribute funds evenly until a better approach can be developed." (Christie is right on school funding, [The Record](#), 8/2/16)

- "He is implementing this in a responsible way by exempting the special-needs students from any reductions and by phasing in the new formula over three years to allow the affected districts an opportunity to adjust to new funding levels. This will also give the state leadership and the school districts time to develop an alternative formula that is targeted to drive the desired results."
- "We need to know where the tens of billions of dollars in subsidies to the Abbott school districts over the years has gone, why the cost per student in some of these districts exceeds \$30,000 per year, and why all of this money has not improved educational performance. Until we get these answers, it is unfair to ask our hard-working families, senior citizens and low-income residents in other communities to continue to fund this broken system."

State Senator Gerald Cardinale: "Gov. Chris Christie's landmark school funding reform, the "Fairness Formula," would address New Jersey's property tax crisis by fundamentally changing the way the state spends your money. The Christie plan is called the Fairness Formula because it provides every student in the state with the same level of funding for their education. It treats every child equally, because all of our students deserve an equal chance at success in our schools." (Tell Dems to pass Christie's school-funding plan, [Star-Ledger](#), 8/9/16)

- I support the Christie plan, but for it to pass, it will also need the support of Democrats in the Legislature who have repeatedly promised, and failed, to lower property taxes.
- This conversation about school funding and education reform is one that the people of New Jersey must have, and I'm glad that Gov. Christie finally has us talking about putting an end to expensive failure through his proposed Fairness Formula. If you agree that it's time for a change, call your legislator and tell them to support the Fairness Formula today.

Millstone Township Mayor Bob Kinsey: "I support the Governor's Fairness Formula. The current allocation of State education funding is fundamentally flawed and I commend Governor Christie for showing the leadership necessary to put an end to this inequity. All children in the State of New Jersey are entitled to their fair and equal share of State education funding dollars regardless of where they live.

Over 75% of Millstone Township residents' property taxes go to fund our local school district and when the 'Fairness Formula' gets adopted and implemented, it will drop that burden below 55%. It's the right thing to do!" (Statement, 7/28/16)

Senator Oroho, Assemblyman Space, Assemblywoman Phoebus: "All three of us have supported permanently ending the Abbott district charade with the New Jersey Supreme Court and mandating that state aid for education needs to be equally distributed to all school children no matter where they live. Sussex, Warren and Morris counties have been short-changed by this unequal system for way too long at the benefit of wealthy urban enclaves like Hoboken and Jersey City. We look forward to enacting a fairer school funding formula soon." (Statement, 6/22/16)

North Brunswick Superintendent Brian Zychowski: "Under Christie's plan, the district would get an additional \$17 million, more than doubling per-pupil aid. If the new money went directly to tax relief, the average taxpayer would save \$1,862 a year. I'm excited for my district, and the taxpayers in my town, who have been paying more than the local fair share. It's welcome news." (Meir Rinde, No Fast Fixes For New Jersey's Deeply Flawed School Funding, [NJ Spotlight](#), 7/15/16)