

ICYMI: "Tell Dems to pass Christie's school-funding plan"

Tuesday, August 9, 2016 Tags: [FairnessFormula](#)



Tell Dems to pass Christie's school-funding plan

State Senator Gerald Cardinale
Star-Ledger

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.

Under the plan, existing state education funding would be divided equally among students. Every school district would receive an identical \$6,599 per student in state aid.

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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.

Some are hiding behind Senate President Stephen Sweeney's proposal to create a commission to study school funding reform. Creating and deferring to a panel of bureaucrats is not a sign of leadership, nor does it solve the problem.

Considering that the Sweeney has already promised that his commission would offer a way to fully fund the current flawed formula at an extra \$1.9 billion annually, New Jersey residents would actually see their total tax burden go up, not down.

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The only school funding solution that takes politics out of the equation is the Fairness Formula, which inherently treats all children equally.

For those who question the impact that aid reductions would have on the long-overfunded Abbott districts, New Jersey's successful charter schools show just how much is possible when we look beyond funding as the only pathway to educational success.

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If the Democrats in the Legislature truly care about children being left in failing school districts, they would support giving all of those parents a choice of where their children go to school.

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

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Formula.

If you agree that it's time for a change, call your legislator and tell them to support the Fairness Formula today.

Full article [HERE](#).

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