

APPENDIX



KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

*Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools*

Testimony provided by Dr. James J. Lavender, Superintendent of the Kingsway Regional School District on Friday, January 27, 2017 before the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness.

Good morning Senators, and welcome to Kingsway Regional High School. My name is Jim Lavender and I am the Superintendent of the Kingsway Regional School District, a position I've held since 2010. I am also a shared superintendent with the South Harrison Township Elementary School District, a sending elementary school within the Kingsway Regional system. However, my testimony this morning will focus solely on Kingsway's funding plight as I see that our funding imbalance touches every school, community and taxpayer who make up Kingsway's 57-square mile border surrounding the Townships of East Greenwich, South Harrison, Woolwich and the Borough of Swedesboro.

At Kingsway, we take great pride in our achievements, we are passionate about the services and opportunities we provide, and we value high quality education. Our motto *Committed to Excellence* drives us to ensure the sound educational experience our students and community deserves. Our name is consistently echoed throughout the region as an exemplar. We have the highest high school graduation rates in the county, a high school ranked alongside other top high schools in South Jersey, a middle school that serves as model for other middle schools in the area, advanced placement offerings that have been nationally recognized by College Board, and a competitive and accomplished performing arts and athletic programs.

Despite all our accomplishments, Kingsway may be better known as one of the State's fastest growing school districts, serving two of the fastest growing municipalities – the Townships of Woolwich and East Greenwich. As a result, Kingsway's population growth has increased by more than 1,405 students over the last fifteen years. Unfortunately, state aid has failed to keep pace. In 2001, state support for the Kingsway Regional School District equaled \$5,280 per student. In the

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current 2016-2017 school budget, state aid per pupil was reduced to \$3,770. This represents a 29% reduction in State Aid per pupil over a period of 15 years. As you can imagine, the contradiction between unrelenting pupil enrollment growth and state aid reductions per pupil has placed extraordinary demands on our facilities, programs, and staff.

Throughout this same period Kingsway continued to implement cost-saving measures in an effort to reduce the tax burden while maintaining quality programs for our students. In the 2016 Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending, the Kingsway Regional School District was ranked first out of forty-six (7-12) regional school districts throughout the state as the lowest spending in regard to budgetary per pupil costs (\$10,537.) For FY 2017, Kingsway's budgetary cost per pupil was reduced to \$10,362 and is lower than the \$15,296 state average, and markedly lower than other districts such as Monmouth County's Henry Hudson Regional, which spends nearly \$22,000 per pupil.

Despite our efforts, the burden to fund our school district has consistently been shifted to our local taxpayers. Throughout the same fifteen-year period where state aid per pupil has decreased by 29%, local property taxes per pupil have increased by more than 142%, from \$3,549 in 2001 to \$8,600 in 2016. This dramatic shift of responsibility has made it increasingly difficult to preserve our quality school system.

In 2008, we had hope that a solution to our problems was found with the passage of the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA). The new funding formula guaranteed that state school aid would be distributed fairly and equitably based on a formula that took into account each town's property tax base, its ability to pay, increases and decreases in enrollment, and the special needs of children. It was a formula that finally ended New Jersey's tortured history on school funding fairness, was lauded by experts throughout the country, and according to New Jersey's Supreme Court, SFRA's design was found to meet the constitutional mandates of *Abbott v. Burke*, for all students.

As a result, Kingsway, like many other districts, received a 20 percent increase in state aid for the 2008-09 school year and consequently adopted a school budget that called for the smallest local tax increase in a decade. We were also assured by then Commissioner of Education Lucille Davy that Kingsway would be afforded 20 percent increases per year for the next five years until we were made whole. This recognition and increase in state aid would have put Kingsway on par with other



communities and eased the unfair tax burden placed on our local residents who make up the difference in funding our public schools. In fact, had the Kingsway Regional School District been funded at the levels the SFRA phase-in promised, we would have levied \$32.8 million dollars less than we did in the nine years since SFRA was adopted.

In the years after SFRA was adopted, state aid promises were never fulfilled. As a result, the status quo was protected and overfunded school districts continued to benefit at the cost of those who have historically been underfunded. Districts with declining enrollments were held harmless while growth districts continued to be ignored. Consequently, Kingsway and districts like Kingsway have fallen far from the promises of a constitutionally sound, nationally recognized school funding formula.

The continued failure by the State of New Jersey to recognize our plight cannot be ignored. To illustrate this point, using the Department of Education's State School Aid publication showing SFRA funding for the current year, I can show that a comparable high school less than a thirty-minute drive from here, receives 135% of full, uncapped SFRA funding. In contrast, Kingsway Regional receives just 46%. In fact, eight school districts in Gloucester County alone receive more than 100% of full, uncapped SFRA funding, including one elementary district that receives 156% funding, while two of Kingsway's sending elementary school districts, Swedesboro-Woolwich and East Greenwich, receive 56% and 49% respectively.

The truth is that New Jersey's Legislature should be applauded for the work they did to rectify decades of underfunding the neediest students through the adoption of SFRA. However, the hold harmless provision implemented through the budget, arbitrarily disregarding SFRA, has resulted in the disparate treatment of NJ students in underfunded districts. How can a Governor of a State, a Commissioner of Education or any member of the legislature today, nine years after the implementation of the hold harmless provision, reasonably say that some students in the State of New Jersey are entitled to 156% of their school funding while other students are entitled to only 46%?

If Trenton officials are going to hold Kingsway students to the same high school graduation measures as every other student, yet continue to fund our schools unfairly, then the hypocrisy of



government is alive and well in New Jersey and is then best measured by how our leaders in Trenton have treated our children.

I don't believe this is the case and the mere fact that you are hear, listening to testimony, indicates to me that you want this problem fixed as badly as we do. Please know, that if Kingsway, and districts like Kingsway, are to be held to the same regulatory standards by the Department of Education as the overfunded school districts; and if our teachers are going to be held to the same evaluation measures as teachers in every other school district; and if we expect every child to enter kindergarten ready to learn and to graduate high school college and career ready, then it is your moral imperative, your just obligation to ensure that every one of the 586 school districts is funded fairly.

Senators, I implore you to address the inequity of funding throughout our State. I ask that the legislature reconfigure state funding amounts so that they conform to the SFRA and omit the "hold harmless" provision from the budget. This will ensure that every student receives their constitutionally guaranteed education funding. I am asking that you intervene now, and in time before we strike our operating budgets for the 2017-18 school year, and protect every student in New Jersey and ensure that every student receives a thorough and efficient education. Our students, our faculty and our taxpayers cannot afford to be ignored another year.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony.

Very truly yours,



Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools





KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

*Dr. James J. Lavender, ext. 4205
Superintendent of Schools*

*Mr. Jason Schimpf, ext. 4203
School Business Administrator*

**TESTIMONY AS PROVIDED BY JAMES MUELLER, BOARD PRESIDENT,
KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, ON JANUARY 27, 2017 BEFORE THE
SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FUNDING FAIRNESS**

Good morning Senators, thank you for your time today and your consideration of my testimony.

My name is James Mueller and I am a resident of East Greenwich Township for the last 14 years. I am also a past Board of Education Member for the East Greenwich Township Elementary School District, having served two terms. Currently, I represent East Greenwich Township on the Kingsway Regional School District Board of Education and have the pleasure of serving as Board President. One of my greatest pleasures in my role is having had the privilege of handing over 700 high school diplomas to talented Kingsway graduates.

I am also a veteran of the United States Army & the Florida National Guard. Having received Honorable Discharges from both, I live by the ARMY Creed. That Creed states, I am an American Soldier, I am a warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the ARMY Values. The Creed ends with - I will always place the mission first. I've also taken an oath to support and defend the constitution of the United States of America and as an elected School Board official, I've taken the oath to serve and protect the constitution of United States and the State of NJ as you all have. I take these oaths seriously. I approach my Sales profession, this School District and my community while, always placing the mission first.

So what is the mission? The mission started back when I joined the East Greenwich Board of Education in 2008 when I wanted to fully understand where my taxes were going since my school taxes seemed to be going through the roof year after year. I wanted to see how the money was

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being spent. To my surprise, it was not being improperly appropriated, but being managed the best it could be based upon the tax revenue received and the minimal funding from the state at that time. Then, the housing market exploded. This region was one of the fastest growing communities in the Country for a number of years. During this time, to my surprise, state funding to the schools was held flat while our enrollment was exploding at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Our community was then asked to support two large building expansions via referendum. One at the elementary school to the tune of \$25 million dollars and one at Kingsway for approximately \$31 million. So in the course of a number of years this community (not including other sending districts projects) took on \$56 million dollars in building projects on the backs of its residents. Yes, the state helped a little (I think it was \$7 million & \$11 million respectfully), but the brunt of the expansion cost was placed on this community via property tax increases to cover the cost of debt issuance.

Those days seem long ago, but they aren't at all. We continue to have student expansion here at Kingsway at 5% year over year with space and programs being limited. So the mission continues, as it was then – to be fairly funded and ensure our taxes are being spent wisely. We aren't asking for anything that is not already approved and specified in the SFRA, but for some reason this community has been ignored. We are a staple for how shared services are working (other districts ask us how we are doing it and the state says you're doing a great job keep it up), but when we needed a referendum to expand our transportation facilities (which generates about \$500k per year via shared services) and our infrastructure need improvements (track and other improvements) it was voted down by our community twice.

The residents are tapped out, and have told us they can't support a new track, infrastructure improvements for our transportation facility or other projects that this school desperately needs. These aren't luxury items, but are functional and operational items that any district requires. Don't get me started on the Band Bus which is about the most embarrassing representation on wheels we have here at Kingsway. Let me digress for one moment; last football season when we're playing another district located in Gloucester County here at Kingsway, Dr. Lavender and I



strolled around to the visitor's side of the field. To our astonishment, the visiting team and band arrived in nine school buses, an 18 wheeler containing 3 tractors, a 50 foot motorized boom to film the game as well as other gear. All the while our hollowed out 1991 red bus sat close to the dilapidated track. This was a gross display of inequitable funding at its finest and we were left speechless.

Speaking of other schools, a comparable school system in the next town over, has a beautiful facility and campus. They are very similar in economic demographics, but for some strange reason (may be the SFRA hold harmless clause) with their enrollment declining, receives \$6 million more than Kingsway on an annual basis in the form of state aid. That to me and others within our community makes no sense at all. Don't get me wrong, we have great relationships with these school districts and in no way mean to create an "us versus them" situation. We are simply trying to demonstrate the vast inequality that exists in relation to school funding within this State.

Let me get back to the mission. We are all elected representatives in one respect or another, whether we represent Local, County, BOE, and State office etc... What is expected when we are elected? It is expected that we make the tough decisions and implement those decisions, not take the easy way out. When I have to stand in front of a pack auditorium and inform the community that we are facing a \$2+ million budget deficit for 2017-18 school year and cuts will have to be made that gets the communities attention. But, we do it because we have too, we can't run a deficit, period. That is the hardest decision we make at this level of government. Our mission is, we balance budgets, fund programs within our abilities and treat our programs with fairness and respect. But, the State in regards to funding this district and the sending schools have not respected nor funded our region appropriately. Our communities' income tax dollars are leaving this area and they aren't coming back to this community in the form of state aid to our schools and it's downright unacceptable. What I don't understand is how Kingsway can only be funded at 46% of the SFRA funding model and other communities in the State get more than 100% and in



some case more than 150% of funding. That needs to change and it can't come too soon for this district as we are in a crisis and we see no light at the end of the tunnel.

In closing, let me leave you with this, **always place the mission first**, know your constituents, know their demands and requirements as this issue is not going away, but we are more than willing to ensure we help you in making the correct decision for our community and the other severely underfunded communities within the state.

Thanks for your time and consideration today. I will be happy to entertain any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

James Mueller, President
Kingsway Regional Board of Education





KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

Dr. James J. Lavender, ext. 4205
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Patricia Calandro, ext. 4250
Chief Academic Officer

Testimony provided by Patricia A. Calandro, Chief Academic Officer for the Kingsway Regional School District on Friday, January 27, 2017 before the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness.

Good morning, Senators:

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to speak today. My name is Patricia Calandro, and I currently serve as the Chief Academic Officer for the Kingsway Regional School District. In this role, I am the chief administrator in charge of school curriculum and programs for all students in grades 7 through 12. Prior to this role, I served as a special education teacher for nine years and I am entering into my sixth year as a school administrator at Kingsway.

Alongside my colleagues, I experience first-hand how the state's refusal to appropriately and fairly fund our district continues to fail our students and our community. Despite years of creative budgeting, hard work, and simply doing more with less, I sit here today saddened by the fact that we are officially broken. Today, I need to hire approximately twenty-five teachers across the district to operate programs appropriately, but funding shortfalls prevent me from doing so. Even more, I am disappointed that it comes as a result of the state's failure to understand the devastating impact unfair funding practices have on the very students we have been charged with developing and protecting.

As public educators, we are responsible for providing comprehensive educational programs for all children so that we can cultivate successful, informed citizens that can compete globally. Kingsway is not only faced with having to cut programs but also stifled in its ability to produce college and career tracks that we know our students require to grow intellectually and interpersonally.

At a time when we are charged with effectively preparing students for jobs that do not yet exist, we are unable to offer a range of technology classes or provide our students with the technology they need to be successful in a competitive environment. Our inability to upgrade our wireless network infrastructure makes the infusion of educational technology into the classroom unreliable and thus ineffective. Our high school students consistently express a desire to take Advanced Placement courses or career-centered electives, but we cannot meet the demands due to budget constraints, specifically the lack of teachers. Students are left to choose a study hall or a course that does not support their career goal. In our last strategic planning process, our community overwhelmingly asked us to expand our academies and to develop additional programs that meet their child's college and career goals—types of provisions the state sites in code as secondary education initiatives to support student achievement (6A:13-2.2). And, while Kingsway has the talent to create the programs, we do not have the money.

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Because of our current situation, class sizes continue to grow significantly. In our middle school, 98 classes have a class size of 30 or greater with many of the remaining classes just one or two students away from this threshold. Yet, classrooms remain empty. While Kingsway has the physical space to accommodate this population, we do not have the funding to hire the teachers to reduce class size to appropriate numbers. To be clear, when I discuss these numbers, I am referring to our current situation. Next year, with our projected incoming 7th grade class of approximately 492 students – our situation becomes even more critical. Without our fair share of state funding, nearly every class at the middle school next year will have a class size of 30 or greater. In the high school, it is not uncommon to walk into a physical education class with more than 40 students assigned to one teacher. When class size reaches this level, we have to be concerned about student safety in addition to student learning.

Additionally, this past year we faced a shortage of special education teachers. As a result, we had to submit three different applications for waivers to the county regarding class size restrictions for special education students placed in their least restrictive environment – a requirement under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The maximum group size for in-class resource programs has been set by the state of New Jersey as 10 (N.J.A.C. 6A:14). Although the waivers were approved, this is in no way ideal. We are overloading inclusive classes to ensure special education students have access to the specialized instruction they require in their least restrictive setting. IDEA states, “Almost 30 years of research and experience has demonstrated that the education of children with disabilities can be made more effective by ensuring their access to the general education curriculum in the regular classroom, to the maximum extent possible.” Simply stated, we do not have the special education teacher resources to adhere to the legal limits set under IDEA.

It is because of the dedicated administrators, faculty and staff that refuse to give up on our kids that Kingsway continues to push forward and produce successful and prepared students. Unfortunately, this is done without the state’s support that is owed to them. Kingsway’s students are entering into the same competitive environment as those just three miles down the street receiving at or above the statewide average. Yet, the state’s practice of not funding the formula has generated an unlevelled playing field for our kids. Because of the state’s failure to support our students, I fear they will continue to miss out on academic experiences that would provide them with a rounded education and focused college and career track.

I ask, today, for your voice in this fight so that we can ensure our students and community receive what is owed to them. I want to make it clear, that we are not asking for more than our share; we are asking only for what our students and communities have been promised under New Jersey’s School Funding Formula. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Patricia Calandro
Chief Academic Officer





KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

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*Mr. Jason Schimpf, ext. 4203
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TESTIMONY AS PROVIDED BY JASON SCHIMPF, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR, KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, ON JANUARY 27, 2017 BEFORE THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FUNDING FAIRNESS

Good morning Senators and thank you for hosting this event here at Kingsway. My name is Jason Schimpf and I am the Business Administrator for the Kingsway Regional School District. I have held this position since October of 2011 and have a total of sixteen years' experience in the field of public school administration.

As you all know, in 2008, the New Jersey Legislature enacted a new school funding formula, the School Funding Reform Act, or "SFRA." In 2009, the State Supreme Court found the SFRA constitutional, not just for students in the districts formerly known as Abbott, but for all students statewide. With that decision came two conditions in order for the SFRA to continue constitutionality. 1 – the formula must be fully funded for the first three years; and 2 – the formula must be reviewed to make sure it is functioning properly. Neither of these conditions were met and in May of 2011 the State Supreme Court ruled that the State had violated its Abbott directive after mass cuts to school funding in fiscal year 2011 and ordered the State to fully fund the formula in 2011-12. However, that ruling was limited to the 31 districts formerly known as Abbott districts and did not assist the non-Abbott districts that were underfunded, and in some cases severely.

The full funding of the SFRA, or lack thereof, was problem number one for school districts. In 2016-17 the SFRA was underfunded by approximately \$900 million. Since the inception of SFRA in 2008, the State has underfunded its schools by more than \$8 billion.

Problem number two was the inclusion of the "hold harmless" provision within the SFRA. In order to ensure that no district saw a decrease in State aid from their 2007-08 levels, the legislature amended the SFRA at the last minute to include a "hold harmless" provision. This

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provision was meant to be temporary in order to slowly bring the overfunded districts back down to 100% of SFRA funding over a period of five years. As you all know, this too has not happened and has created large inequities in school funding. In an Education Funding Report prepared by then Commissioner of Education, Christopher Cerf in 2012, when referring to Adjustment Aid he said, "It is a symbol of the old Trenton; a paean to the longstanding tradition of refusing to make hard choices even when hard choices are in order and failing to make hard choices will cost taxpayers greatly." And cost taxpayers it certainly has. The "hold harmless" provision also prevented districts with growing enrollments, like Kingsway, from receiving additional aid while holding districts with declining enrollments level. According to the Education Law Center, nearly \$567 million was allocated to districts in the form of adjustment aid in 2015-16 alone. Of that \$567 million, nearly \$300 million went to districts already spending above their adequacy levels. This is \$567 million in aid calculated outside of the SFRA and distributed to hundreds of school districts that are not entitled to those funds.

Problem number three is how the school aid is allocated amongst the State's school districts. In 2016-17, 212 school districts will receive more than 100% of their state aid. Conversely, 379 other districts will receive less than 100% of their state aid, with 239 of them receiving less than 70%.

The question that has to be asked is "why?" Why do the districts that have been overfunded for years continue to be held harmless when Kingsway, and many other districts, continue to be shortchanged? Kingsway has had to survive with less than its fair share of state aid each year for more than a decade. Enrollment continues to increase at a rate of approximately 5% each year. Kingsway's taxpayers already contribute more than their fair share as calculated by the SFRA and Kingsway will spend roughly \$9 million dollars below its adequacy budget in 2016-17, or less than \$3,500 per pupil than it should to provide a thorough and efficient education as calculated by the State's own formula. Kingsway is also the lowest spending 7-12 regional school district in the State of New Jersey. Why would reducing aid to those Districts that are overfunded, in a reasonable way, be any more catastrophic to them than what Kingsway has had endure?



We are doing our part. We have made it work, but we cannot stretch the dollar any further. Our resident taxpayers cannot afford anymore. Due to our growth we have had to expand our facilities and have taken on more than \$40 million in debt to do so. This has only exacerbated our funding struggles and continues to cripple our residents' ability to pay. The inequitable distribution of school aid has gone on for way too long. Our school district, and the many others that are underfunded, deserve their fair share.

The solution is simple and requires no additional legislation. The SFRA already exists and provides generous, overall funding to school districts. We are simply asking the Governor, Legislature, and Commissioner of Education to abide by it. Begin to ween the overfunded, over adequacy districts off of adjustment aid and reallocate those dollars to the underfunded districts. Of course, full funding of the SFRA is the ultimate goal, but, here at Kingsway, we understand budgetary constraints better than most and realize the State may not be able to add \$1 billion to school funding next year. Senate President Sweeney has already suggested allocating an additional \$100 million to school funding each year over the course of the next five years. Something the State has been able to do over the last several fiscal years. Those funds, coupled with the near \$600 million in adjustment aid, will get us to full SFRA funding. What could be more fair than all districts funded at 100% of SFRA?

Thank you for your time.



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School Business Administrator

January 27, 2017

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness,

My name is Dr. Kristin O'Neil, and I am the Superintendent of the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District. Joining me this morning is Mr. Christopher DeStratis, the Business Administrator, Mr. Scott Hogan, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Mr. Craig Frederick, the Board of Education President. The testimony that I am about to give is on behalf of the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District.

By now you are familiar with the history of underfunding for both Swedesboro and Woolwich as well as the significant tax burden placed on both communities. You are also familiar with the fact that the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District was known just a few years ago as the fastest growing school district in the entire Northeast.

As of today's date, our school district educationally supports 1,732 students. Currently, Swedesboro-Woolwich receives 55% of the full, uncapped SFRA funding, and we are currently underfunded a total of \$3,221 per child or a total of 5.6 million dollars. We are also 2.3 million dollars below adequacy.

However, I must note that I am extremely proud of our school district because even faced with these challenges we have managed to continue to provide a good educational program to all. Most recently, the District was commended by Ms. Avé Altersitz, the Gloucester County Executive Superintendent, for exceeding efficiency standards in many areas as compared to the state median:

- Support Service Costs
- Administrative Costs
- Operation and Maintenance of Plant Costs
- Students to Educational Support Personnel
- Students to Administrative Personnel
- Faculty to Administrative Personnel

However, due to the decreased streams of funding and the increasing expenditures, it has been recommended by the Gloucester County Educational Office that the District continue to increase the local tax levy by 2% and utilize all cap adjustments.

But - now is the time when we must ask - where does this end? Since 2001, the local school taxes have increased an overwhelming 270%, which doesn't even include Kingsway's similar increase. At the same time, state aid per pupil to Swedesboro-Woolwich is down by 19% in just 15 years.

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While financially doing our job and continuing to maintain a very low total budgetary cost per pupil, my greatest concern for our children focuses on the future. Based on communications with our local municipalities, we are preparing to face another wave of significant growth within the next few years. We are anticipating as many as 3,000 new homes. What concerns me most is that even today, with a relatively stabilized enrollment, and while maintaining the 7th lowest out of 56 (K - 6) school districts in total cost per pupil, we were faced with the decision to lay off four teachers this year to balance our district budget. This resulted in kindergarten class sizes increasing between 5 and 6 students per class.

Our District is beyond fortunate to have very dedicated and supportive teachers, administrators, and support staff members who find creative ways to make things work. We have found ways to offer the arts at the kindergarten level even though we do not have enough staff to offer formal music or art instruction to our 3, 4, 5, and 6 year olds.

We have found ways to offer gifted and talented, STEAM, and enrichment services to students beyond the school day and over the summer through parent funding. But again, with our local tax burden continuing to compound each year, our children and our families deserve better. We should be able to expand and fund these opportunities for our children without imposing an additional financial burden onto our families.

Although we are very grateful to the State of New Jersey for committing Supplemental Enrollment Growth Aid to our district several years ago, we implore you, the Legislators, to prioritize fair funding for all school districts throughout the state. We also urge you to impose no new legislation that would cost school districts additional monies until this problem is resolved. We just don't have it. The children of New Jersey didn't create this problem, but now you have an opportunity to correct it.

I sincerely thank you for your time, and I thank you for listening to our concerns this morning.

**Testimony Before the New Jersey Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness
Kingsway Regional High School, Cafeteria East
January 27, 2017**

By Steven Robbins, Representative, Cherry Hill Parents for Fair Funding

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Select Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Steve Robbins, and I am testifying on behalf of the Cherry Hill Parents for Fair Funding committee. My purpose for testifying here today is to inform you of the existence of our group, who we are, our goals, and what you can expect from us in the future.

The committee was formed in 2013 by a group of parents responding to school officials' call for citizen action. They reported that our state legislators were persuaded more by regular citizens rather than by the same school officials year after year. All the while these same legislators acknowledged the existence of Cherry Hill's state funding deficit, both in absolute terms under SFRA and comparatively with similar districts.

What started as a small group of parents culled from Cherry Hill school PTAs has now grown to include parent representatives from the bulk of Cherry Hill's 19 schools, plus school officials, school board members, district school union officials and other concerned Cherry Hill citizens. The committee's Facebook page has over 700 followers and is growing.

The purpose of the committee is to give voice to Cherry Hill parents and voters who are concerned about an unfair school funding system that is opaque, inconsistent and in some cases punitive; and about the continued lack of action to remedy this situation by both the legislative and executive branches.

The committee's goals are simple: to recover the millions of Cherry Hill taxpayer dollars confiscated by the state in 2010; to recover the tens of millions in funds Cherry Hill was entitled to but did not receive under SFRA since its enactment; and to seek a fair funding system that is transparent, accurately reflective of a district's actual student makeup and consistently applied across all districts.

The committee intends to accomplish these goals by using grassroots lobbying, public engagement and education, and the active support of candidates for public office that further the committee's goals.

Committee representatives have already met on more than one occasion with Cherry Hill's state and local elected officials, as well as representatives from the NJ Department of Education's budget office. These meetings were constructive and laid the foundation for further discussions to achieve a fair and equitable funding system.

In the days ahead, the committee intends to extend its outreach both within the district and with outside leaders to attain the goals of the committee. The committee is working on other means of engagement beyond the grassroots lobbying I've discussed here today. We intend to partner with similar grassroots organizations across the state. Together, we will engage in coordinated direct lobbying and direct support to candidates, regardless of party affiliation or incumbency, who will make the committee's goals a part of their platform and who have a genuine willingness to make it happen.

Thank you again for allowing us to testify.

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Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness Testimony

January 27, 2016

Presented by Michael Piper of Our Fair Share

Senate President Sweeney and distinguished members of this Committee I thank you for allowing my testimony today. My name is Michael Piper I am a married father of three from Delran NJ and Co-Founder of the parent group OurFairShare. Which is a group of parents from underfunded districts across the state fighting for funding fairness. Recently I had the pleasure of seeing a presentation by the NJ Association of School Administrators and have included some of their information in my testimony.

By now, we should all know the basics of the SFRA. We should all know that it is currently underfunded by 1.4 billion dollars on an annual basis. About \$600 million was removed from SFRA funding to provide state aid outside the formula to keep every district at FY08 aid levels. This over funds some districts at the expense of others, largely in the form of Adjustment Aid.

We have never fully funded the formula, and are currently funding at approx 85%. Having never fully funded the formula we have short changed school districts almost 10 billion dollars. Let me say that again 10 billion dollars. As I said earlier approx 600 million dollars is removed every year as Adjustment Aid. This has continued the same way for 9 years with no adjustment to a district's economic realities or to changing demographics. Rising salaries and health insurance costs are crippling districts yet revenue remains flat.

In Fiscal year 17, 212 districts received more than 100% of their aid as required under SFRA while 379 districts receive less than 100% of the aid they should receive, and yet another 239 districts receive less than 70%. This results in higher property taxes and thus has taxpayers from districts all over the state paying more than their fair share of taxes. The percentage of SFRA aid the State distributes to school districts ranges from a low of 10% to a high of 1,033%.

While I sit here and think about the nearly 90 million dollars, yes, I said 90 million my school district has been shorted per the SFRA since 2008. I then think to myself how our legislators are too busy worrying about declawing cats than getting to the bottom of a problem that has plagued this state for 40 years. A problem that plagues over 500 school districts across the State.

As legislatures of this state it is your duty to take swift action to fix the education funding system in this state. When I say, swift I mean immediate action so that students, taxpayers and school districts have the burdens caused by your inaction eased. It is completely unfathomable that a school district in this state receives 10% of its mandated aid and another receives 1033%.

I implore you to take swift and immediate action to fix this issue. I testified in front of both the Assembly and Senate Budget Committees last year. Yet I sit here today and nothing has changed. Senator Sweeney has put forth a plan which we believe is the only feasible plan on the table. Please set aside party lines and, work together to make this reform a reality. We've seen how fast our legislators can act when they want to. There's been enough discussions, enough research, enough excuses. Too much time has passed to allow this to continue. It's hard, we get it. But that is exactly what you were sent here to do - tackle the hard issues and get results. Underfunded districts needs results, and they need them now...not 9 years from now. I thank you for this opportunity and your service to the taxpayers of NJ. I will be happy to answer any questions.

**SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE HEARING ON SCHOOL FUNDING
KINGSWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 27, 2017**

Good Morning and thank you for allowing me to speak today. I am the business administrator for Washington Township Public Schools. During my tenure, there has been the Quality Education Act (QEA) and the amendment, the Comprehensive Educational Improvement Financing Act (CEIFA), the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) and various adjustments to the state budget to correct or modify each.

Each of these formulas, when I read them, appeared to be equitable. I could understand why the legislature would vote for them. However, the problems seemed to occur in the implementation of the laws. Each of these formulas had a "Hold Harmless" provision; and to the best of my knowledge, none of these formulas have ever been fully funded. These Hold Harmless provisions were put in place so that no school district would feel the devastating effects of the change.

Our district experienced significant growth in the 1990s and early 2000s. Aid was frozen in a few of those years also. The difference in the formulas during our growth years to now is that the burden clearly was placed on the local tax levy. Caps were on total expenditures. The Tax Levy was the total expenditures minus your State Aid and Other revenue. There were allowable tax Cap adjustments for growth – increasing the levy.

The "Ability to Pay" has been a common theme in these formulas; however, ascertaining that amount has always had problems. The first year of CEIFA, zip codes were used to determine this factor, and our Township has six different zip codes. A box was placed on tax returns to help identify the municipality residency. Our Township is very similar to the surrounding towns; however, we do have a small percentage of extremely wealthy households which we believe distorted this calculation. These formulas gave state funds which allowed for the creation of full-day kindergarten and preschool programs--not only for the programs, but also for the construction of facilities to house these programs. Our district was apparently too wealthy for this aid. Just this school year 2016-17, we finally had space to house a full-day kindergarten program. We redistricted our students and our resources to implement such a program. This now places us on a more competitive level with our surrounding communities who have had this program for years. A regular education preschool program will have to wait.

During our growth years, we had Senator Matheson's and Assemblyman Geist's office on speed dial. We lobbied the same way as the current districts that are now feeling the pain with this formula. On several occurrences, the adjustments that we lobbied for actually occurred after our need; and other districts benefited from them. During a few of those years the Debt Service Aid of 46 percent was reduced significantly – resulting in the local taxpayers footing the bill. The current formula has accomplished the task of controlling the rise of the local tax levies. However, not funding the formula at 100 percent has caused problems for districts experiencing significant growth.

The current formula hurts all districts with respect to their infrastructure, as all capital projects must be done within the 2 percent tax levy cap. Our district is in immediate need of two roofs – we received estimates of \$1.7 million and \$2.1 million, respectively. These two roofs are

difficult to fit into the cap. The SDA grants have been a Godsend, but funding is not on an annual basis. I always pray that I haven't started a project before funding comes through. Districts that had "Other Revenues" must find a way to replace them each year or risk cutting programs to balance their budget.

In March of 2009, State Aid allocations were given to school districts indicating their State Aid allocation for the ensuing 2009-2010 school year. The following summer we were notified that a significant amount of the State Aid we were getting was not State Aid but Federal Aid. Funding for the subsequent year (2010-2011) was reduced as a result of that change in source. Washington Township was cut by \$6.5 million, and \$1.3 million of fund balance and capital reserve was taken to balance the state's budget--a total hit of \$7.8 million. Programs that took a decade to build were eliminated overnight. Significant program reductions consisted of music, art, and the gifted and talented program, to name a few. Every school district in the state felt this pain.

Declining enrollment does not allow you to adjust your budget proportionately. If you have a decrease of 100 students, you can't just cut four teachers. If the students were in the same grade, then maybe you could. But losing ten students a grade level does not result in that. If you are down 500 students over 5 years should you close a school? It can't happen when you have to have the space mandated by code to house them. The overhead remains – utilities, insurance, maintenance, etc.

We agree that relief from the constraints of the current formula is needed for some districts. Funding the formula at 100 percent would be ideal for everyone. Absent that, reallocating the current formula without looking at the history of all the districts would fix the problems in one area but would be devastating to others. As noted above, our district did have problems with the formula at the time of our growth years; and taxpayers were burdened with additional taxes. Yet we could not house or fund programs such as full-day kindergarten or a preschool program; which has been proven to increase student achievement.

You have a daunting task before you. We ask that you look at the totality of the decisions you make and what the effect of a reduction of aid will be to those districts. Will it accomplish the goal of "*A New Formula for Success – All Children, All Communities?*"

Presented by: Margaret F. Meehan, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
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ATLANTIC COUNTY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Senate School Funding Hearing Testimony for Philip Guenther January 27, 2017

Senator Sweeney and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Philip Guenther and I am the superintendent of Atlantic County Vocational School District. I would like to commend the Senate President for recognizing the unmet financial needs of many school districts throughout New Jersey, and for your continued focus on restoring a more equitable distribution of state aid that recognizes enrollment growth and the changing demographics and economics in school districts throughout the state.

Our district has experienced tremendous growth since the implementation of the School Funding Reform Act. We have had an increase in enrollment of 164% since the 2009-2010 school year. At the same time, the amount of state aid we receive has actually decreased by almost \$93,000 over the past seven years. By any measure, our district is severely underfunded.

Specifically, our district received \$3,793,793 in state aid in 2009 for 566 students and \$3,700,925 in 2016 for 1494 students

This unprecedented increase in enrollment was largely the result of Atlantic County's decision to transition our county vocational school from a mix of full-time and shared-time programs to a comprehensive full-time program that would respond to overwhelming demand for career and technical education in our county.

This transition required a \$40 million expansion and renovation of our facility in 2009, and the addition of new career and academic programs and teachers, as well as the support services required for a full-time high school.

We began planning for this many years before the expansion became a reality. We had to gain a consensus in the county, plan the facility and then complete construction. All of the budget and planning that went into this process made the reasonable assumption that state aid would keep pace with enrollment growth as dictated by the School Funding Reform Act.

Unfortunately, because the law was not funded, we became a victim of our own success. Our enrollment more than doubled, while state aid did not follow these additional students to our district.

At the same time, Atlantic County has undergone extreme fiscal challenges. With the closing of five casinos, the industry experienced massive job losses, an unprecedented decline in revenue, forcing further budget shortfalls, and a precipitous decline in county ratables.

The combined impact of the loss of approximately 13,000 casino jobs, as well as the highest home foreclosure rate in the country, and several successful casino tax appeals caused Atlantic County's ratable base to decline by about 34%, from \$56,189,528,720 in 2009 to \$36,656,261,756 in 2016.

Because of this new financial reality facing Atlantic County, it has been difficult for our freeholders to increase their contribution to our operating budget beyond their generous support for our facility expansion. Our county tax levy support has grown by 3.5% over the last seven years -- an average annual increase of .5%.

My school district had to make some very difficult decisions, including raising the local share our sending districts contribute, in the form of tuition. We also had to delay plans to start new career programs in high demand fields. We are simply not able to accommodate all of the students in the county who wish to come to our school because of the funding shortfall. Every year, the number of applications for our programs increases and every year we have to turn down more and more students as we typically receive approximately 1000 applications and are only able to accept less than half of the applicants.

The closure and reduction in workforce in the casino industry has resulted in high unemployment and overall economic decline for Atlantic County residents. Workforce development and opportunities for high school students and adults to develop career skills are critically important to keep residents employed and re-boot the county's economy.

The Atlantic County Institute of Technology offers a wide range of career programs including health sciences, information technology, culinary arts, building technology, automotive, and engineering. This year, thanks to a partnership grant authorized by the Legislature, we launched an aviation studies program in partnership with Atlantic Cape Community College and the FAA, to meet the burgeoning demand for aviation technicians in our county.

But our ability to keep pace with industry demands, support economic growth, and prepare our students for the jobs of tomorrow is dependent on sufficient resources for our academic and career programs.

In short, Atlantic County Vocational School District is suffering because of stagnant state aid and high enrollment growth. We appreciate that the Legislature is committed to finding solutions to

the funding problems. We know that it is not easy given the state's current fiscal situation and we applaud the effort you are making to engage stakeholders and to consider any and all possible solutions.

As you review options for short- and long-term adjustments to the School Funding Reform Act, we ask you to give careful consideration to:

- fast-growing districts like mine, that have experienced not only enrollment growth, but also a declining ratable base to support our schools; and also to
- county vocational-technical school districts throughout the state, which depend upon their counties for funding and lack the ability to increase their local tax levy to make up for any aid losses or address emerging needs.

Thank you for your commitment to this issue and for the opportunity to speak today.

Paulsboro Public Schools

Administration Building, 662 North Delaware Street, Paulsboro, NJ 08066
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Dr. Laurie Bandlow, Superintendent

January 27, 2017

Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness
State House Annex
PO Box 068
Trenton, NJ 08625-0068

Honorable Stephen M. Sweeny, Chair, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding hearings on school funding. We have reached a crisis stage in this state where funding for schools has not kept up with increased costs, increased enrollment, and changing demographics. My name is Dr. Laurie Bandlow, and I serve the Paulsboro Public Schools as their Superintendent. I am here today on behalf of the students and families of Paulsboro to applaud your efforts in this matter and to emphasize how serious the financial condition of communities like Paulsboro has become.

I understand that a proposal for radically changing school funding is being considered by Governor Christie. Please know that the proposed changes to the school aid formula that the Governor has proposed would deprive children in communities like ours of 30% to 60% of the funds necessary to operate schools. Such a proposal would take resources away from children in Paulsboro who have the greatest needs.

Wealthy communities like Ridgewood and Summit would see huge windfalls under that plan. Reductions in state aid would take away from children of poverty funds that pay for essentials such as textbooks and e-books, food, and counseling services. For the wealthy communities that might benefit from this windfall, we understand that they would be expected to use these funds to reduce taxes. While that may be a worthy purpose under some conditions, it is not appropriate at the expense of low income families and communities.

Paulsboro today is a multicultural, multi-generational village where family and diversity are celebrated. "Paulsboro Pride" is not just a saying; it is a way of life. Though we in Paulsboro are not wealthy, we are very rich in pride, heritage, and tradition. Our diverse students, some 80% of which live in poverty, take great pride in their schools and community, too. They respect and accept one another. Every child is welcome and knows it. This unique culture of acceptance and mutual respect has been created by school and community leaders over generations, and reinforced by programs like Big Brothers,

Big Sisters, and Students United for Respect and Equality (S.U.R.E). It is precisely because of this supportive climate that my son Chris chose to attend Paulsboro High School.

It is in this spirit that I speak to you as school superintendent and as the parent of a Paulsboro High School student.

I also wish to speak on behalf of early childhood education. We operate an Early Childhood Learning Center that provides vital services to the children of poverty. Many of our children do not have books in their home, and many parents lack the resources to support learning at home. Every Friday, some of our teachers gather food to send home with students that we know may not otherwise have anything to eat until they return to school on the following Monday. This is the reality that cannot be ignored. Paulsboro could not offer this important service without the state grant that supports it.

The School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) of 2008 has been criticized by some for failing to serve the needs of New Jersey's school children. But the only problem with SFRA is that the State of New Jersey has never funded it adequately. If the law has shortcomings, they would only be made worse by taking money away from high poverty districts.

I respectfully ask that you address the lack of funding that is pushing the Paulsboro Schools and others similarly situated to a fiscal crisis. This cannot wait.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Bandlow".

Dr. Laurie Bandlow, Superintendent of Schools
Paulsboro School District

Pitman Public Schools

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January 27, 2017

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee for coming to Gloucester County for this hearing. My purpose in coming today is to share my perspective on the current school funding debate, and to ask for your careful consideration of the actions that may ultimately be taken.

I am the Superintendent of Schools in Pitman, a community just a short distance from here; my school district serves almost 1,500 students in five schools from grades Pre-K through 12, and has a long standing reputation of providing an exceptional educational experience for our students.

In the discourse regarding school funding and the various data points that have been shared over the past 12-18 months, my district might be regarded as one of the lucky ones – recent numbers suggest that our funding levels sit just above 100% of the 2008 formula. As such, I'm here to represent the side of this issue which has concerns about the implementation of any plan to reform the current situation through significant adjustments in state support. Depending on which numbers you look at, my district stands to lose anywhere from a modest amount up to close to 20% of its state aid under a plan to phase out. While I can appreciate the concerns of school districts that have not received state funding to which they and their students may be entitled, my concern lies in any "solution" that has a dramatically negative impact on the students and the community that I serve.

I appreciate and understand the issue of fairness and equity that are central to these deliberations. I merely ask that lawmakers avoid a "one size fits all" approach to a more equitable distribution of limited state funds. The different circumstances of various communities demands a more nuanced evaluation and implementation. For example, the community of Pitman continues to suffer the negative impact of the closing of the Sony plant several years ago. What had once been the largest employer and taxpayer in the town now sits nearly empty and underutilized. The property, once valued at \$18 million dollars, is now listed with an assessed value of \$3 million dollars; as a result, the burden of paying the costs of providing municipal services and running the public schools have been dramatically shifted to homeowners. To compound this problem by significantly reducing state support to the school district would fundamentally impact the quality of education of children in my community.

To be clear, I am not opposed to a resolution to the concerns of underfunded school districts; those districts, like mine, should be funded at 100% of the formula. My primary concern is to ensure that my district is fully funded as well, and that any necessary adjustments are made in a thoughtful and deliberate way that considers the unique challenges faced by each community and the impact that those adjustments would have on those children. I am aware that it has been proposed to add additional money in funding as part of concurrent adjustments in aid to districts; short of that funding materializing, however, I worry that across the board cuts in aid will pit school districts and communities against one another in a battle for a limited pool of funds.

Again, thank you for allowing me to speak at this hearing today.

Building on our unique traditions, the mission of the Pitman School District, in partnership with families and our community, is to educate all students through exceptional learning experiences to be discerning, ethical, confident citizens. It is the expectation of this school district that all pupils achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels.

25x



KINGSWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Committed to Excellence

*Craig S. Stephenson, Ext. 4208
High School Principal*

*Lauren N. Kerr, Ext. 4299
Assistant Principal, Grade 9*

*Monique M. Stowman-Burke, Ext. 4314
Assistant Principal, Grade 11*

*Michael Beirao, Ext. 4299
Assistant Principal, Grade 10*

*James W. Zurzolo, Ext. 4314
Assistant Principal, Grade 12*

Public Hearing before NJ Senate Select Committee on School Funding

January 27, 2017

Testimony delivered by Craig Stephenson

I thank the committee for the opportunity to speak about this important issue that is dramatically impacting children, families, and taxpayers within our communities. My name is Craig Stephenson, and I am a resident of East Greenwich Twp. as well as the principal of Kingsway Regional High School.

Many within our communities and schools have worked for a decade to draw attention to this critical issue; we are cautiously optimistic that we are now on the pathway to finally addressing inequities in school funding.

I wish to focus my testimony today on the impact of unfair funding practices from the perspective of an East Greenwich resident, but I confess that the insight I have as principal of this high school assists me in appreciating how dire this situation is for both our current and future students. We certainly need action now.

My wife and I both worked as teachers at Kingsway Regional High School for 8 years before moving into East Greenwich. Like many of our friends and fellow East Greenwich residents, we moved here because it is a great community with excellent schools.

The schools have been and continue to live up to our expectations, but my position as principal here offers me a unique insight. I can see the precipice at which we are now standing, and I know that if grossly inequitable funding practices are not addressed now, our children will suffer. Given our appreciation of the current and future impact of decade-long unfair funding practices, my wife and I, both employees of Kingsway – a wonderful school – with two children currently at the Samuel Mickle School! – another wonderful school - have actually had recent discussions about whether or not we made the right choice moving into this community – a community we and our children love.

We moved into East Greenwich in 2009. Like so many of my fellow East Greenwich residents, our property taxes have increased at a seemingly exponential rate since that time. I understand why this is the case. As state aid is distributed, the two most underfunded school districts in

Gloucester County are Kingsway Regional and East Greenwich Twp. Kingsway receives 46% of the state aid it should receive while East Greenwich receives 49%. If Kingsway were funded at 100% of the state's funding formula, the district would receive an additional \$11.6 million dollars in state aid in 2017 alone. I believe East Greenwich School District is underfunded in the neighborhood of \$3.5 million dollars.

On behalf of taxpayers, we are angry, because years of inequitable funding practices by the state has placed an inordinate burden for funding our school districts on us, the local taxpayers. State funding that should be provided to Kingsway, East Greenwich, and other underfunded districts throughout the state has instead been sent to a number of school districts who actually receive more than what the established funding formula indicates they should receive.

I know my wife and I are not alone in our frustration. Conversations with friends and with parents of children in the East Greenwich schools and/or Kingsway reveal that many are having the same discussions. A Kingsway parent recently told me that her family is moving simply because they can no longer afford to live here.

As strictly a parent with children in our school districts, I am even more angered and frustrated. While I don't possess the insider knowledge of East Greenwich Schools, I can say that my children continue to have a very positive experience and it certainly seems from a parent perspective that they are providing a high quality education and are doing so in a fiscally responsible manner. I can tell you that at Kingsway we have worked very hard to stretch every dollar and have implemented a number of shared services agreements as part of this effort. I am proud of the product we deliver, and the fiscally responsible manner in which we do so. Kingsway is a great place. I believe our kids have an excellent experience here. However, we at Kingsway have officially reached the tipping point. We can no longer support the demands of a growing district and as we attempt to address a significant budget deficit, we are facing layoffs and program cuts in an already lean district that is likely to see a 5% increase in enrollment next year. This will have a significant impact on our students, and will reduce the programs they will have access to. As a parent, the thought that our own kids will be at a disadvantage because they do not have access to the same opportunities that many other students have throughout the state is infuriating.

I am encouraged that the Senate Select Committee is holding this hearing at Kingsway. Inequitable funding can no longer be ignored by our state. Your presence here is an indication that we are not being ignored, but your presence alone is not enough.

On behalf of my fellow East Greenwich residents and parents, we need action and we need it now. Our children deserve the same opportunities that other children throughout the state are afforded. Unless action is taken to ensure our schools are funded equitably, our students will be at an extreme disadvantage, and I believe I speak for all of the parents of East Greenwich and all of the Kingsway sending districts when I say that this is simply unacceptable.

Again, thank you for this opportunity, thank you for your attention to this matter, and as our elected officials, we trust that you will not rest until this gross inequity is rectified.

Testimony of Patricia L. Haney, Superintendent
Logan Township School District
Gloucester County
January 27, 2017

Good morning Mr. President and members of the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Issues. I am Patricia Haney, Superintendent of the Logan Township School District, a PreK-12 district that sends a majority of our resident high school students to Kingsway Regional School District.

I am here to provide testimony today about the effects that the Senate proposed funding formula would have on our district. I decided to provide this testimony after reading the Philadelphia Inquirer article, written by Maddie Hanna dated Monday, January 23rd, which stated that "Senate President Stephen Sweeney...wants to start drawing down aid from districts he says are **overfunded...**"

As a fellow superintendent I am here not to speak against any district who is labeled as underfunded, or against a district who is labeled as being overfunded or receiving adjustment aid. Actually, I support the aspect of Senator Sweeney's proposal to allow for greater aid increases for growing districts. I am also pleased to learn that this Select Committee is considering special education costs as part of this proposed legislation. Considering both growth and the cost of special education makes sense to me as a superintendent.

I am here to share with you the perspective of a superintendent whose district has been labeled as overfunded. Logan Township School District does **NOT** have an **overabundance** of resources. We are a school district that focuses on best practice. We consider ourselves to be an efficiently-run district, considerate of our taxpayers, while striving to provide a 21st century learning environment for all of our economically-diverse students, while also addressing the needs of our special education population as well as our gifted population. In Logan, providing a 21st century learning environment includes having a STEM program, a one-to-one electronic device initiative, appropriate class size, well-maintained buildings and grounds and high PARCC state assessment scores in both English Language Arts and Math. These are the types of programs which might need to be cut if state funding is significantly reduced as proposed by this funding formula.

These successes are not easily attained. Approximately 20 percent of our student population is considered economically disadvantaged while approximately 15% have special needs. Over the years, we have expanded the continuum of services provided to our Special Ed population and our at-risk student population while expanding our counseling services for all grade levels of students. We now stand ready to expand the much-needed services available to our Special Education high school students (up to age 21) who presently receive services out-of-district. Our Board of Education is beginning to look at the possible expansion of Special Services by adding an alternative high school program for Special Needs resident students. This exciting opportunity

is something which most districts only dream of being able to provide. However, if the senate proposed funding formula is approved, this dream would never become a reality for this at-risk student population.

There are a variety of ways Logan stands to lose money if this plan is adopted. As a PreK to Grade 12 District we are financially responsible for all of our high school resident students. Our budget includes the cost of tuition and transportation for these students. The proposed senate funding formula will most likely negatively impact Logan **twice** due to the fact that our high school tuition is included within our budget. First, Logan is set to receive reduced state aid of approximately \$190,000 for the next five years, per our understanding of Senator Sweeney's funding formula plan. Kingsway is set to receive additional state aid, per this same Senate funding formula, resulting in an increase in Kingsway's per pupil cost. As a result, Logan will see a significant increase in our high school tuition cost for the resident high school students we send to Kingsway, while also suffering from a reduction in our state aid. To give you some perspective behind these figures, we currently send approximately 270 students to Kingsway. If Kingsway's tuition were to increase by \$1,000 per student, which it could easily do, our budget would have to absorb an increase of \$270,000 at the same time we experience a reduction in our state aid of approximately \$190,000 (and that is only for the first of five proposed years of state aid cuts!) We are asking that you consider this as you finalize your plan.

We agree with the NJEA when they state this plan is "divisive"; it pits one district against another. As a neighboring superintendent who has respect for the job Kingsway's educators are doing each and every day for all students, including Logan resident high school students, I will not speak against Kingsway's need to be recognized for its growing population with additional aid. Rather, I support this request and need. Two possible ideas are: to allow districts like ours to have a cap adjustment for tuition increases over 2%; or, to cap the annual tuition increase billed by receiving districts to sending districts. We realize that both of these proposed solutions will impact local taxpayers.

We are not ignoring the fact that the state funding formula needs to be fixed. It took 8 years to create this problem, we would ask consideration of solving the problem at least over an equal number of years. Our suggestion is not to rush.

We hope to be kept abreast of ongoing findings and work of this committee. We are very interested in staying involved and being available to answer more in-depth questions on future occasions. At the beginning of my statement, I spoke of the educational environment provided in our district schools. I invite each member of this panel to visit our district to see a successful 21st century learning institution so you can experience first hand the types of programs which stand to be lost, and subsequent staff layoffs which would follow, if this proposed plan takes effect.



**NJPSA Testimony before the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness
January 27, 2017**

Good morning President Sweeney, Vice Chairman Pennacchio, and members of the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness. I am here today representing the perspective of New Jersey's building based leadership, the principals, assistant principals and supervisory employees who lead in our public schools across New Jersey. Our association represents members in all type of school districts – former Abbotts, RIM districts, middle income districts and higher wealth communities. As a result, **NJPSA supports a funding formula and state budget that will meet the needs of ALL students no matter where they live and what unique educational needs they bring to the schoolhouse door.**

I must begin by thanking you Senate President Sweeney and the members of this committee for your collective commitment and proactive leadership in addressing an issue that is on the mind of every educator, board of education member, and parent in our state, particularly at this time of year - the state funding of our public schools. As we begin a new calendar year, educational leaders at the school and district level are well underway in their local budget processes and are anxiously awaiting word on their state aid figures for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

As building level leaders, we understand first-hand the critical importance of school funding as the foundational element for the quality and breadth of educational programs and services we can offer our students. Funding impacts all we do - from the attraction and retention of high quality staff, to the breadth of our curriculum and availability of advanced course offerings, to the size of our classes, to our students' access to technology, to the health and wellness options we can offer, and even the array of offered extracurricular activities which often serve as a unique learning setting and the motivation for students to stay in school.

We also understand that funding must be based upon the unique needs of the students we serve. The 70,000 students who arrive at New Jersey schools each day not speaking our language require extra instructional supports and services to succeed. Students who live in poverty, similarly, bring a whole host of specialized needs that schools must address to help them succeed at learning. These supports can include the provision of meals, critical early learning opportunities or focused instructional supports in our classrooms. Students with disabilities also require individualized learning plans which detail their specific instructional supports needed for successful learning.

The SFRA Formula

Fortunately, the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) was developed in recognition of this fact. The formula includes both a 'base cost' or the per pupil amount necessary to support the core curriculum program for every student regardless of need as well as extra funding to support programs for poor (at-risk) students, limited-English proficient (LEP) students, and students with disabilities, regardless of where those students live. These extra funds are calculated as a percentage of the base cost, called a "weight." Under the SFRA, every district has a "weighted student enrollment," where students are counted for purposes of generating state and local revenue

using the base cost plus the weights reflecting unique student needs. This process helps ensure that every district's state funding is based on the individual needs of its students in conjunction with each local communities' economic status and ability to provide for its students.

The formula also established an "adequacy budget" or level of funding which reflects the core costs of providing the programs and services constitutionally mandated by our State Constitution to meet the educational needs of every student. The SFRA funding levels and weights were wisely developed in consultation with professional educators and experts, including our members, who provided input on exactly what resources and staffing were needed at all school levels to meet constitutional standards. The Court approved SFRA formula was also designed to address funding inequities and the corollary learning gaps that result, by provisions that seek to move all districts toward an education "adequacy" level over time (statutorily over a five year period.) The impact of these provisions depended on a district's status either above, at or below adequacy.

Specifically, in order to ease the transition for districts that would receive less state aid under the SFRA (because they were over adequacy), the formula included "adjustment aid" to hold districts harmless at pre-SFRA state aid levels. Under the law, districts receive adjustment aid if their 2008-09 SFRA state aid allocation was less than their state aid level in 2007-08. This was meant to ensure that these districts didn't experience a huge drop off in funding as the State transitioned to the formula. But, adjustment aid was intended to steadily decrease over time (5 year period). Districts receiving adjustment aid would be flat-funded until their adequacy budgets grew to the point where regular/other aid replaced adjustment aid.

Funding Reality- SFRA Formula Ignored and Underfunded

In practice, the goals of the SFRA funding formula have not been met because the State has failed to fund schools according to the formula for the past 7 years. The first year following the Legislature's 2008 enactment of the law is the **only year** the statute was fully funded. Since that time, schools have faced a \$1 billion cut in funding in 2010-11 (5% cut across all districts) and essentially flat funding in every fiscal year since.

Due to the fact that the formula has not been run or funded over the past 7 years, the SFRA categories through which districts receive traditional aid have been "frozen". Given this issue, the number of districts who receive funding through adjustment aid has not decreased as intended. In fact, many of these districts operate with lean budgets that rely of this form of aid. Additionally, demographic and enrollment shifts that would have been addressed by running the formula did not occur leaving some districts underfunded for the students they serve and others overfunded.

If the State had funded schools according to the SFRA formula, districts below adequacy would have had their funding levels rise to the adequacy level by now. Similarly, districts who spent above adequacy would have moved toward the adequacy funding level but been protected from dramatic funding drops through the temporary phase- out mechanism of adjustment aid.

Impact on Districts

So, what are the effects of the State's failure to implement the SFRA?

1. Districts have been effectively "frozen in time" when it comes to their State funding levels, and in terms of their status in relationship to their adequacy budgets regardless of student enrollment changes, changes in community wealth, rising costs in nearly all aspects of school budgets and changing student needs. This fact

has also led to a rising perception of unfairness among districts. Districts have taken significant steps to reduce costs wherever possible by sharing services, eliminating programs and postponing plans for important instructional programs like full day kindergarten.

2. Due to multiple years of flat funding, districts and local taxpayers have been forced to shoulder the burden of rising costs in education at the local level within the confines of a restricted ability to raise local revenues (the statutory 2 percent tax levy cap). The result has been a narrowing of programs offered and hiring restrictions in some districts, especially low wealth/low spending districts who are trapped by the tax levy cap at below adequacy levels. In about 200 districts, local taxpayers have borne the brunt of the state funding shortfall through higher property taxes in an effort to maintain quality programs. These outcomes have an impact not only on the quality of education we provide, but also on the economic life of New Jersey citizens.

3. If the current practice of underfunding continues, these issues will only grow with the end result a whittling away of school quality in New Jersey schools. In the view of New Jersey's principals and supervisors, such a practice will lead to:

- A narrowing of our curriculum at a time when our world economy demands the best preparation of our students for college and career;
- A significant restriction in the ability of our public schools to attract the best and brightest to teach our students;
- A retraction, not expansion, of research-proven programs like early childhood learning opportunities for students at risk;
- A real reduction of much-needed health, counseling and wellness programs in our schools;
- Class size increases; and
- New barriers to our members' ability to meet the unique learning needs of all of the students in their schools.

For these reasons, NJPSA welcomes the Legislature's attention to this critical issue. Although the term 'funding fairness' has been bandied about a lot lately, we know from practical experience that one size (or funding level) does not fit all when it comes to educating our students. NJPSA welcomes the conversations ahead and supports the development of a plan to begin implementation of the SFRA, even on a phased in basis, to base state aid on the SFRA formula and allow it to work towards its statutory goals.

We recognize that New Jersey is facing new revenue shortfalls and competing budget concerns. However, the time has come to commit to reliance on the Court-approved SFRA for funding distribution, to seek additional revenue sources, to loosen overly restrictive caps on districts to provide relief and to prioritize our children's education as a State investment in our future.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to New Jersey's school children.

**Testimony of Nicole Moore before the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Issues
Friday, January 27, 2017**

Good Morning. Thank you for this opportunity to share the impact that a loss in school funding has had in my district. My name is Nicole Moore. I am the Principal of Indian Mills Schools in Shamong.

Shamong is a small district with two schools and a little over 800 students. We are a rural suburban community in Burlington County. Because we do not receive a whole lot in state aid our loss may not be considered 'extraordinary' by some. That is not to say that it is not impactful to the students we serve, however.

As a district we have had to sustain cuts year after year since 2009 making even a 'modest' cut in state aid significant over time. Last year alone we lost \$81,000. Capitalize that loss over the last 9 years and frankly, the impacts become very real and harmful to the students we serve.

Our mantra has been 'do more with less.' We continue to dip deeper and deeper into what reserves we have and have implemented a freeze on spending. As for facilities, we piece-meal projects, only doing a portion per year or what the budget could handle. Without the limited Schools Development Authority (SDA) funding we received we would not have been able to complete critical security upgrades in our buildings. Let me be clear – these years of 'flat budgets' have actually meant operating at a budget deficit. If we had not used reserves and frozen spending we would have gone over the allowable 2 percent property tax levy cap just based on increases in health costs alone. We have no fat left.

I am thankful that my Board has worked incredibly hard with the Administration to ensure that we don't have to limit instructional programs or extra-curricular activities. We had the discussion but with their support we did not yet exercise this option. I do not know if we will be able to continue, however, if we do not see some relief in the near future.

Like my fellow speakers, the way special education is funded via a census based approach is a problem. The percentage of current funding (16 percent) does not equate with the needs of the students in our district. We have to "rob" from other accounts to ensure that the needs of the students are met. In addition, that number continues to increase. In 2016/17, more than 18 students enrolled with special needs, adding to the deficit in funding the State provides. Similarly, we do have students with extraordinary educational needs. In 2016/17 that equated to \$215,396 in cost that as a district we were required to absorb and fund from the general ed program (Shamong received approximately \$12,000). This is a critical problem that is not going away. We have a duty to educate every student, regardless of their situation, and it is getting increasingly hard to ensure we are meeting the needs of all students.

I understand the difficult task before you. It is echoed in every district annually. I see the strain on the faces of my Superintendent, BA, and school board. We need your help to 'right the ship' and get back to formula aid that recognizes the needs of students more acutely and funds them. We urge you to use this as the baseline for any changes made. And, we would urge the changes made truly recognize the impact they will have in local communities.

While we've become accustomed to flat budgets – every flat budget is a step in the wrong direction for our students and schools. We are happy to see the Legislature take a hard look at this tough issue. Thank you for your diligence and service to the students of New Jersey.

Testimony of Heather Moran before the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Issues

Friday, January 27, 2017

Good morning Mr. President and members of the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Issues. I am Heather Moran, the Principal of Logan Middle School within the Logan Township School District, a K-12 district that sends our high school students to Kingsway Regional.

I am here today, to share not only my strong commitment to my school and district, but to welcome you to our community! I also would like to share my concerns as a building level principal about the impact any additional funding cuts would have on the quality of education we currently provide our students in Logan Township.

Let me begin by telling you about my students and our wonderful school. We have 270 students in our middle school grades 6 through 8. Our student population includes about 20% of students who receive free and reduced lunch and 15% who have special needs. Our school community is economically diverse with significant numbers of students living at both ends of the economic spectrum. Many of our students live in the truly rural portion of South Jersey.

My school serves 270 students in grades 6-8. I am the only building level administrator in my building though I am supported by district level curriculum and special education supervisors. I work with 30 teachers and other certificated staff, though I share teaching staff members with the elementary building within my district. We do not have a media specialist in our school since that position was cut several years ago.


As principal, I can tell you first hand that quality staffing is the key to a school's success. When I arrived at my school in 2013, our school district was still suffering the effects of staff cuts from state funding shortfalls a few years earlier. We shared (and continue to share) our special subject teachers like physical education teachers among schools within the district. My students did not have the benefit of a school counselor on site, a media specialist, a reading specialist or a math specialist when I came on board. This hurt our students and our instructional program with our school performance suffering as a result. My school had been identified as in need of improvement based upon our state testing scores (NJASK).

Fortunately, we have been able to restore these positions over time. I cannot emphasize enough how significant these staff members have been in our effort to move our students forward academically and developmentally. If you know a middle school student, you understand the breadth of emotional concerns and issues they bring to school. Our school counselor has embraced our students dealing with their home, social and learning issues and helped foster a positive school climate in our school. Math and reading specialists have added one-on-one assistance to students, helped identify learning gaps and provided much needed expertise. By freeing up my time, these critical staff members have allowed me to focus on working with individual teachers, setting new instructional goals and leading our school forward. I am proud to say that in a few short years, our students are now among the top performers on state PARCC tests within our county.

Consistent and adequate school funding is critical to my school's continued progress. Our school has fought hard to cut costs wherever possible in order to maintain our school quality and our budget is lean. We do not have sports teams that compete with other districts, but are only able to afford to provide school clubs for our students. We have prioritized technology with our students, but have been unable to update our staff's technology. We limit professional development out of the school due to the cost of substitutes. We have limited field trips as well. Our spending is focused on staff and instructional programs, there are no frills to cut.

My point in sharing all of this is illustrate the potential and significant impact a school funding cut could have on one school building's program and progress. As you consider issues of funding fairness, please keep my school and students in mind. Any funding cut that threatens our ability to maintain our staff and educational program will impact the quality of education we provide to our students in Logan Middle School. On their behalf, I ask you for your support and consideration on the important issue of school funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Monroe Township School District (Middlesex)

HOW THE HOLD-HARMLESS PROVISION IS ACTUALLY HARMING MONROE
TOWNSHIP

Monroe Township Middle School



Monroe Township High School





Monroe Township Board of Education

Mrs. Kathy Kolupanowich, Board President

Mr. Marvin Braverman, Vice President

Ms. Michele Arminio Mr. Ken Chiarella Ms. Jill DeMaio

Ms. Patricia Lang Ms. Dawn Quarino Mr. Steve Riback

Mr. Frank Russo Mr. Paul Rutsky

Dr. Michael Kozak-Superintendent

Dr. Dori Alvich-Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Michael Gorski-Business Administrator/Board Secretary



STUDENT ENROLLMENT

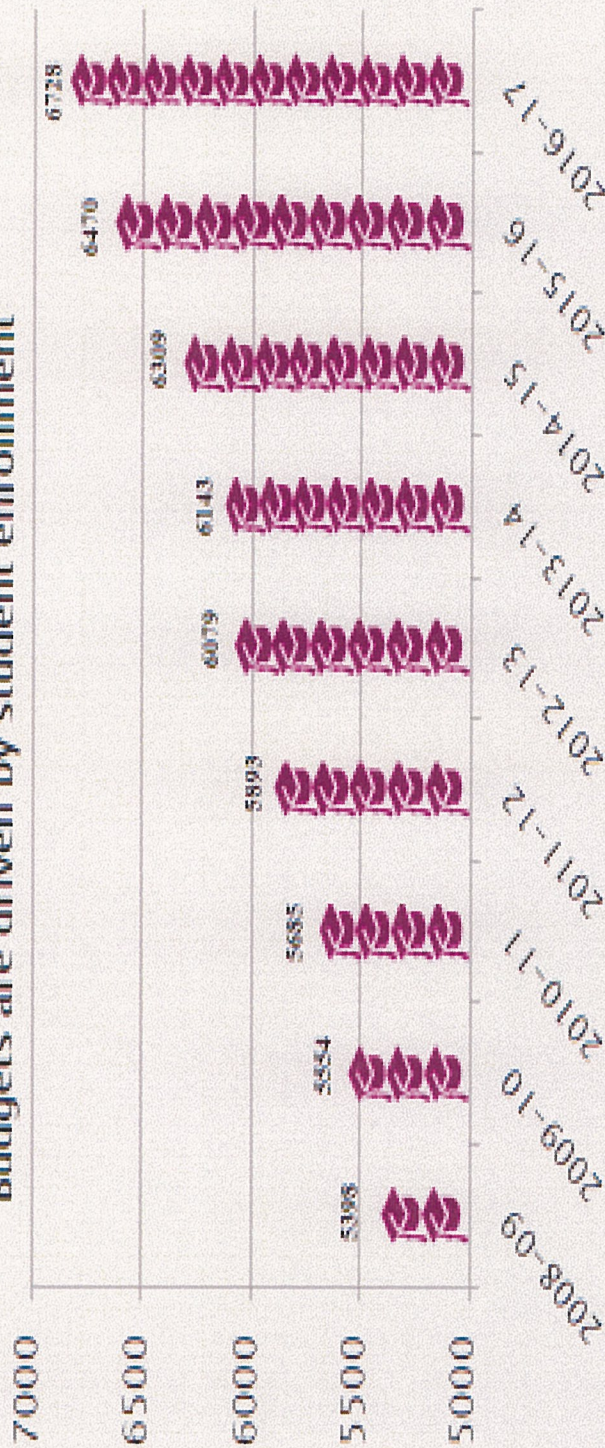
The Monroe Township School District (MTSD) is experiencing unprecedented student growth. We have **added 1,330 students** since 2008. In the next five years, our demographic report **predicts 1,440 students** entering our schools.

Because of the Hold-Harmless provision, the MTSD is cutting quality educational programs and services to accommodate its new student enrollment. In addition, we have been cannibalizing our schools by converting libraries and other areas into classrooms.

Our enrollment projection of 476 students for the 2017-18 school year will cost an additional 7.1 million dollars (476 x 15,000).

BUDGET APPROPRIATION CONSIDERATIONS

Budgets are driven by student enrollment



+ 1,330 students over the past eight years.

* Projected by Ross Haber Associates March 2016



STATE AID

In 2008, MTSD received \$5,467,365 in state aid

In 2016, MTSD received \$3,344,439 in state aid

That equals an 8 year cumulative decrease in state aid of **-\$2,122,926 (- 39%)**

But, our 8 year cumulative student enrollment increased by +1,404 (+ 25%)



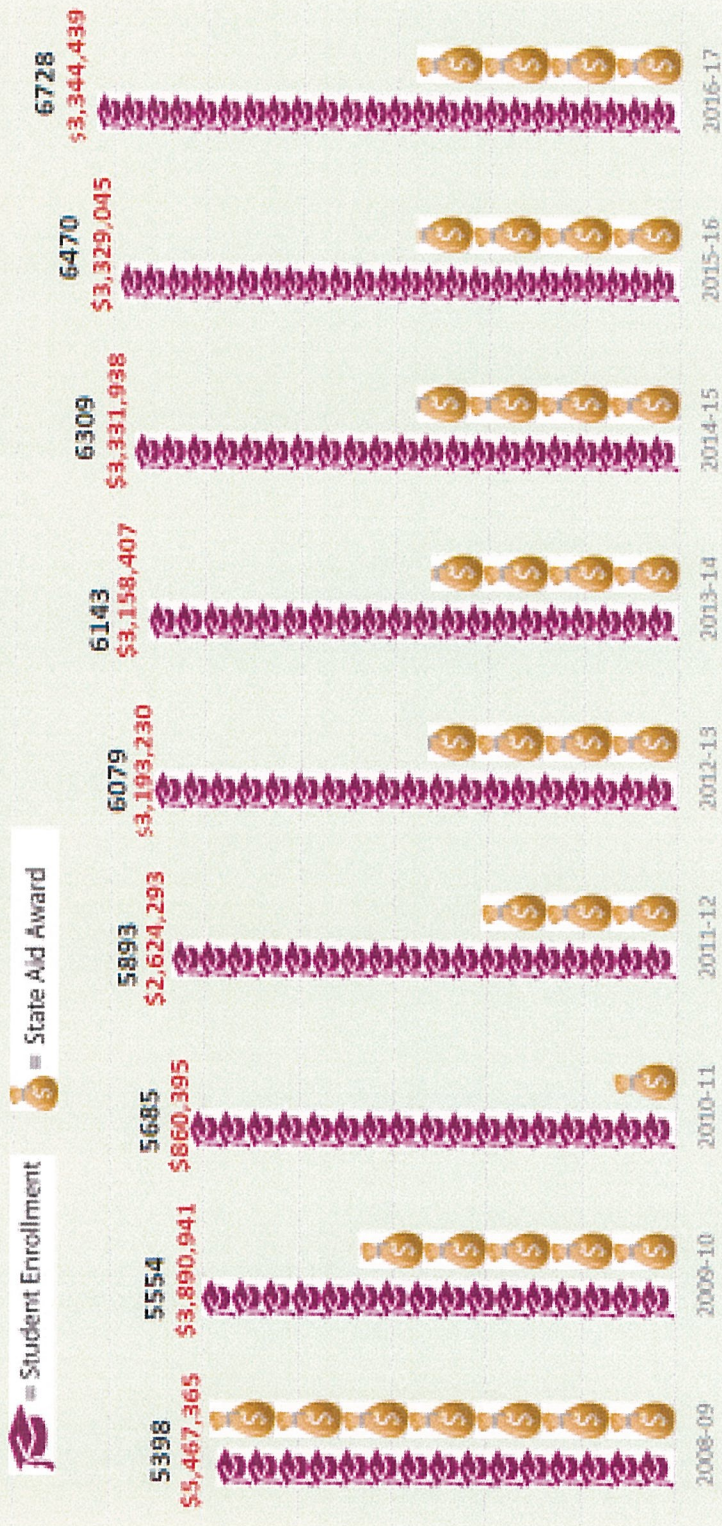
Increase in student population, Decrease in State Aid

8-year cumulative decrease in State Aid

(\$2,122,926.00) - 39%

8-year increase in enrollment from ASSA

+ 1,330 students + 25%





CONCLUSION

Thank you for providing this opportunity to present our funding concerns to you.

On behalf of the Monroe Township Board of Education, the students, staff and the entire community of Monroe Township, **we respectfully ask that you begin to fund the MTSD, and all other underfunded school districts, beginning with the 2017-18 school year.**

Testimony from Andrea Katz, Chesterfield Township Committeewoman.

Thank you Chairman Sweeney and Members of the Committee for being here to discuss this important issue and allowing me to speak to you today. Prior to joining the Chesterfield Township Committee I had the pleasure of serving on the Chesterfield Township Board of Education. Chesterfield has the unfortunate distinction of being the most under-funded district in the state. I can assure you this is not a distinction we would like to have. We have been chronically underfunded for years with state aid staying flat and enrollment increasing every year. The tax payers of Chesterfield have been forced to shoulder the cost of educating the ever growing student population on their own without any help from the state.

The SFRA at its core is not the problem. It is constitutional and, if followed with the exception of a few provisions, would provide what I believe to be a fair distribution of state funds to school districts across the state. However, there are a few provisions in the law that are problematic. First is the hold harmless provision. If a district has decreased enrollment or an increase in their tax base it only makes sense for the aid they receive to reflect that. Isn't that the intention of the formula? The bill also has an enrollment cap. If you aren't going to cap how much a district can grow please don't cap our aid. Chesterfield has experienced significant enrollment increases for many years while the aid we receive from the state has stayed flat exasperating the issues we face from under funding. I understand why provisions like these make their way into legislation. Legislators look out for their districts because that is their job. School funding is so important that it requires impartial arbitrators.

I could sit here all day and throw numbers at you. I can tell you with an operating budget of 9,584,936 Chesterfield is 1.2 million under adequacy while our tax payers are paying \$2,548,005 more than their fair share. I can tell you we are shorted over three million dollars in state aid. But I want to spend my time with you today telling you how all of this impacts the tax payers and parents in Chesterfield.

I asked community members and parents what they wanted you to know today and many expressed the same sentiments. Their taxes continue to skyrocket while the services the school is able to provide do not match those increased taxes. We don't have enough school books for students to bring home. We simply cannot afford the technology necessary to administer PARCC. As I told the Senate President yesterday, we are using funds from box tops and labels for education to purchase the bare minimum of technology required. Investing in 1:1 technology isn't anything close to an option and the longer we wait to implement these programs the wider the gap becomes for our children.

At my last school board meeting our auditor presented the audit report for the year. He confirmed what we already know- that running on a budget as tight as Chesterfield's is not recommended to say the least. I appreciate this Committee's attention and how hard the Senate President has been pushing for a fix to the funding issue we have before us, but I cannot stress enough that time is of the essence. I don't know how long we can continue to go on like this. We need help and we need it now.

It is very frustrating to know that while our district is struggling other districts across the state are receiving millions more than they should. Districts not unlike Chesterfield are spending millions of dollars on technology or debating whether or not they feel like closing a school due to decreased enrollment.

The status quo is not fair. It isn't right. Our residents are drowning in tax bills while the school is operating on a shoe string budget. We need change and we need it soon. I know things in Trenton have a tendency to move slowly and there isn't exactly a lot of extra money floating around right now. I ask you to act quickly on a fix or at least bridge funding until a permanent fix can be found. Please.

In my written testimony I have provided letters from a few residents as well as the comments community members sent to me when I asked for their input for writing my testimony today. I hope you will take the time to read those letters and comments, and I thank you for your time today.

Dear Committee Chairman Sweeney and Members of the Senate Select committee on School Funding Fairness,

I am a 20+ year resident of Chesterfield Township in NJ. Chesterfield Elementary School District is one of the lowest funded districts in the state. I am active in the community, as a Girl Scout Leader, a member of the Chesterfield Township Green Team, Coach for the Chesterfield Township Athletic Association and a PTA and Chesterfield Public Education Fund Member. My husband is also a past 13-year member of the Chesterfield Elementary School Board. We love and care for our community.

I am appealing to the Senate Select Committee on School Funding to make changes and decisions to make the State of New Jersey's school funding fair and equal and to make these changes expeditiously. Our district can no longer provide an excellent education at this pace. Our school is not the school it was 20 years ago, I see the effects of the state funding cuts in my children's education, in every fundraising request that comes home to the families at our school and in our community and at every budget meeting of the Chesterfield Elementary School Board. It is criminal how there are many schools in this state that are grossly overfunded while Chesterfield and others are so severely underfunded.

This underfunding has affected my property taxes to skyrocket from 6,400 to 13,000 with no property improvements due to underfunding. If we were getting a higher quality education and paying these tax rates it would be one thing however the services and programs in the school have decreased drastically. There are children who need additional help in the classroom by way of a qualified resource teacher that do not get that help or are sacrificed to the uncertified Paraprofessional doing their best. Class sizes have increased dramatically. While our population has grown from 300 students to close to 800, our state funding per student has decreased or remained stagnant well below the state per student average.

Some programs that have had to be either cut or funded by the families and a parent based fundraising education fund include but are not limited to the Science Olympiad, levelled reading books for new classrooms due to population increase, STEM/STEAM programs, online research publications, chrome books to support the PARCC testing, educational assemblies and trips, resource programs and enrichment programs. How can our students be expected to compete with students in other school districts that are fairly or overfunded when they are not afforded the same, equal educational experiences?

Annually, services and programs are cut and every year the families of the Chesterfield Community have been asked to support those programs through fundraising. Between the taxes and the fund raising we can no longer expect parents to continuously fund those cut programs. The cut programs and services continue to increase which puts the fundraising in the position of trying to save more services and programs with the same or less money.

In closing, I know you are aware that NJ Education Funding is a problem, I have been to the budget hearings. I am asking that you act now, quickly to equally fund those districts that are desperately underfunded. Look at those schools who have had decreased enrollment and are still receiving more than their fair share. Look at those districts that are overfunded and are still underperforming and hold them to higher standards. Stop throwing funds to those districts who have not improved, until positive changes can be seen. It is not fair to continuously "punish" students in good performing schools for the sins of the irresponsible school administration and oversight. Remember that schools like Chesterfield can only do so much with the resources they have. Performance can slide downhill quickly. Don't wait until Chesterfield is at the bottom of the educational standards "hill" to address this funding issue, it's a much harder and expensive climb to get from the bottom back to the top.

I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Lorrie Thier

4/10x

January 25, 2017

Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness
New Jersey Senate
State House
P.O. Box 099
Trenton, NJ 08625-0099

Dear Senators Sweeney, Pennacchio, Cunningham, Doherty, Oroho, Ruiz, Sarlo and Thompson:

I am a resident of Chesterfield, New Jersey. I am writing to request that the Committee take prompt action to address the unequal state education funding. As you know, Chesterfield receives some of the lowest per pupil state education funding in New Jersey. This lack of funding has created a cascade of difficulties in our town.

First, our elementary school does not have the budget required to provide an effective education to the students. Class sizes are extremely large, and there is no money to permit aides for the younger grades. Gifted and talented programs and special services are lacking. The school is lagging in technology. While an iPad or laptop for every student would be nice (and frankly should be possible given the taxes each homeowner is paying), we cannot even think of funding 1:1 technology purchases because the district cannot afford enough books for all students. Chesterfield funds its elementary school almost exclusively with taxpayer dollars, creating an enormous tax burden for residents. But even with these exorbitant property taxes, our kids are sharing text books and being forced to read the same book time and again because teachers cannot purchase sufficient in-class libraries.

Second, because taxes are so high, many residents are having trouble affording to live in Chesterfield, and are forced to move. With the glut of homes on the market, housing prices in the area are depressed and sellers are not receiving decent offers on their homes.

Third, because of the severe underfunding by the state, parents are asked to contribute money above and beyond the taxes paid to fund basic needs of the school. Our PTA is fundraising to provide balls and other items to be used at recess. After school clubs are organized by parents and funded solely by fundraising and parent contributions. I am a member of the Chesterfield Public Education Fund ("CPEF"), an organization that provides grants to teachers to purchase educational supplies. Grant requests from teachers have skyrocketed, and CPEF does not have the funds to fulfill all requests. Turning away a teacher requesting something as basic as a set of guided reading books for her first grade classroom because there is simply no money is heartbreaking. Knowing that a child may not learn to read as easily or as quickly because the guided reading books were not purchased is worse. Both the PTA and CPEF rely primarily on the parents to meet fundraising goals, and both organizations have seen a downturn in the amount of funds raised as residents struggle with the increasingly high tax burden.

I ask that you please act promptly to address the inadequate education funding provided to districts like Chesterfield. Our residents should not be asked to bear such a disproportionately high tax burden to support education when other districts are receiving more than their fair share of education funding. More importantly, our children should not be receiving a lesser education because of the inequities of school funding.

Regards,

Kelley Johnson
13 Sprague Street
Chesterfield, New Jersey 08515

Carol Cooper-Braun

172 Bordentown-Crosswicks Rd. Crosswicks, NJ 08515
609-298-0154 cw_cooper@verizon.net

January 26, 2017

To the Senate Select Committee on School Funding,

My family has lived in Chesterfield for over 12 years. In that time, we have seen Chesterfield Elementary School grow from a small rural school of 265 students to a large suburban school of over 770 students, and yet the state funding to the school has remained the same. Our property taxes have increased by approximately 40% in the time we have lived here. Just as with many of our friends and neighbors, we have had to consider moving from this community we have grown to love due to the increase in property taxes. However, just as is the case with many of our neighbors, we likely could not sell our house. Property values have fallen, and houses are not selling in Chesterfield, primarily because of the cost of property taxes. Why would people choose to live in a school district that is the most underfunded in the state of New Jersey? To put it plainly, many of us here in Chesterfield are hardworking, taxpaying citizens, who are simply stuck in a situation that if it continues in the trajectory it is headed, could be financially disastrous. Please take a look at how many foreclosures there are in Chesterfield. This extreme inequity in school funding goes way beyond fairness, it is simply appalling.

I respectfully request that the budget for New Jersey schools be redistributed and made equitable for all New Jersey schools. Although I understand that it is difficult to take money away from an overfunded school to give to an underfunded school, it is simply the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Carol Cooper-Braun

Comments collected from Chesterfield Residents-

“Our taxes have gone up \$5,100 since we moved in almost 9 years ago. Paying \$9,100 for a TOWNHOME with ZERO property is completely insane. Plus, we can't get what we paid for our house so we are stuck. It's a shame we love our town, neighbors & schools but if we knew I'd would have come to this, (self funding our school) we would have picked a different area and did private school.” – Rachel Hoagland

“The classrooms sizes are too big. I can only speak to kindergarten since this is our first year but a class size of 22 is too large. Aides are needed and there seems to be a big lack of basic supplies. We are constantly being asked to purchase more stuff. You would think for the amount of taxes we pay pencils and glue could be provided. Kids who need extra help cannot adequately receive it at this ratio and kids who are able to do more are held back in my option.” – Amy Locascio

“We use money from box tops to help get technology in the school. We should be using that for extras yet it is being used for necessary items. It's crazy.” Karen Severe

“Anyone else think this is outrageous? Our house value has dropped \$100k and our taxes have gone up \$4,000 since we moved here 9 years ago. North Hanover is around \$7,000 for a similar house on more land.”

“The LIFT program needs to be expanded for the number of kids in our school who need additional learning resources. The school should have more resources and programs available for kids who need extra help. We are all too busy working to pay the taxes to live here, to be able to reteach at night.”

South Harrison Township Elementary School
904 Mullica Hill Road
Harrisonville, NJ 08039

January 27, 2017

The Honorable Stephen M. Sweeney, Committee Chair
The Honorable Joseph Pennacchio, Committee Vice Chair
Members of the New Jersey Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness

Dear Senators Sweeney, Pennacchio, and Committee Members:

As a member of the Board of Education for South Harrison Township Elementary School in Gloucester County, I'm asking you to ensure that our school districts receive their fair share of state aid.

South Harrison Township is primarily a residential community. Unlike many neighboring districts, it has few commercial ratables. Accordingly, the financial burden to fund the school falls on local homeowners. Without significant increases in state aid, our district will be unable to keep pace with the costs to educate our students, forcing a reduction in programs and staff.

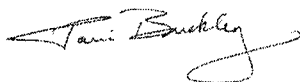
Despite this difficult economic environment, our administration secured significant savings and cost efficiencies through a combination of school choice election, school funding advocacy, and shared administrative services with Kingsway Regional High School. This enabled the administration to redirect funds back to education. However, we are out of options as costs continue to rise.

It's unconscionable that eight school districts in Gloucester County alone receive more than 100% of full, uncapped SFRA funding, including the Wenonah Elementary School District, which receives 286% funding, while South Harrison and two of its sister elementary sending school districts to Kingsway Regional High School receive only 86%, 56% and 49% of state aid.

Furthermore, as South Harrison students advance to Kingsway Regional High School to receive their middle and high school education, they continue to be deprived at the secondary level, since Kingsway is grossly underfunded at 46%.

Accordingly, on behalf of South Harrison Township school district, as a member of the Board of Education, I ask you to end the disparity, today, and provide the sorely needed aid that has been lacking for so long.

Most sincerely,



M. Toni Buckley
Member, South Harrison Township Elementary Board of Education

Fair Funding Testimony Regarding East Greenwich School District

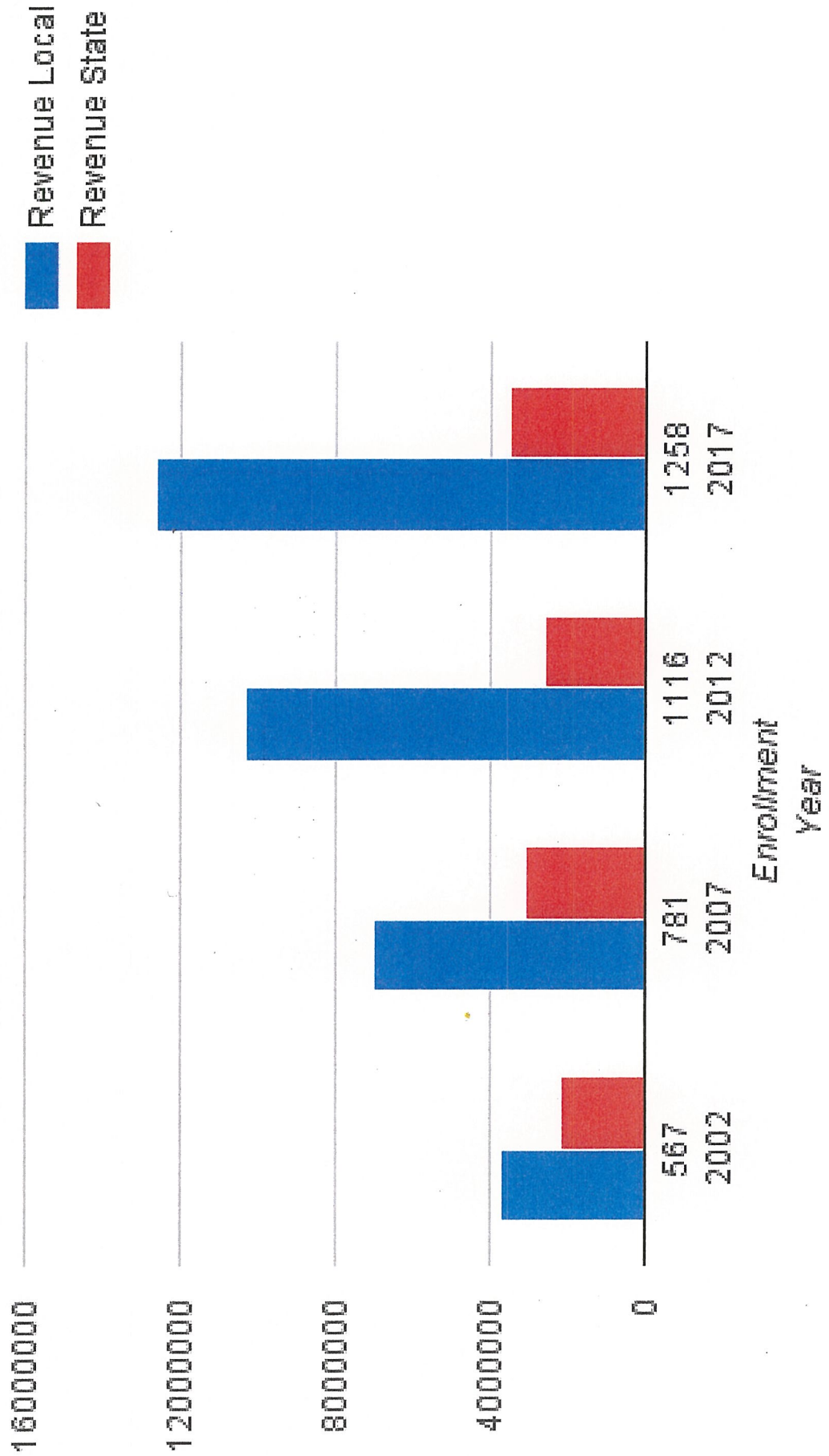
- One of the top five fastest growing school districts in NJ
- More than 240 homes slated to be built within the next three to five years, most with a five-year tax abatement
- East Greenwich School District is efficiently run as indicated by our most recent 2016-17 Efficiency Standards Budget Review.
- East Greenwich School District, according to the 2015-16 *Tax Payers' Guide to Education Spending* indicates that:
 - Support services cost per pupil is less than the state median
 - Administrative cost per pupil is less than the state median
 - Legal costs per pupil is less than the state median
 - Operation and maintenance cost is less than the state median
- East Greenwich employees contribute towards benefits at both the Tier IV level and have additional contributions towards prescription
- East Greenwich School District has used all banked cap and can only raise the tax levy by 2% or approximately \$250,000, which barely covers increased fixed costs.
- If fully funded, according to the School Funding Reform Act of 2008, East Greenwich School District stands to gain approximately \$3.5 million.
- If fully funded and all the revenue were to go to taxpayer relief, the average homeowner would see taxes go down by approximately \$400.
- It is the position of the East Greenwich School District that fair funding needs to be implemented in both a non-partisan fashion as quickly as possible and legislation worded in such a way that at least a portion of the additional funding will go to taxpayer relief.
- In spite of the funding and high levels of efficiency, East Greenwich School District is declared as a "high performing" school district by the Department of Education
- Attached resident petition
- Attached graph: enrollment/aid

Respectfully Presented for the East Greenwich Board of Education by:

Dr. James J. Lynch
Superintendent of Schools
559 Kings Highway
Mickleton, NJ 08056
(856) 423-0412



Revenue Local and Revenue State



53x

Petition to Properly Fund East Greenwich and Kingsway Regional Schools

* Required

Petition summary and background

To seek proper and fair funding in regards to the Percent of Uncapped Aid Received which for East Greenwich Township is \$3,553,979 underfunded, while Kingsway Regional is \$9,793,224 underfunded in regards to State Aid at 85% of Uncapped.

Action petitioned for

We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to properly fund East Greenwich Public Schools in East Greenwich and Kingsway Regional School District in Woolwich Township which are severely underfunded compared to all other schools in Gloucester County. Funds from the state this year for East Greenwich only give our pupils 49% of the adequate funding in the state funding formula and funds for Kingsway give our pupils only 47.2% of the funded schools based on percentage in Gloucester County. The lack of funding not only puts our students at a disadvantage, but burdens local tax payers in the community as well as student's parents who not only pay high taxes but then must reach further into their pockets to help supply funds and supplies that would be furnished by the schools if they were adequately and equitably funded. Per student East Greenwich is underfunded by \$1,931.00 while Kingsway Regional students are underfunded by \$2,952.00 under current funding.

Name *

Address *

Comment

Email Address

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

54x

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
9/17/2015 14:59:42	Delisha Breen	857 Cymbeline Court		delishabreen@msn.com
9/17/2015 15:37:26	Ann Marie Elliott	106 Sarah Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		elliottsgriife@aol.com
9/17/2015 15:57:02	Karen Forst	267 Genesee Road		karenforst1227@yahoo.com
9/17/2015 17:05:24	Christina George	27 Quaker Rd. Mickleton NJ 08056		Cgeellura@hotmail.com
9/17/2015 17:05:58	Michael George	27 Quaker Rd. Mickleton NJ 08056		Mdedgeorge.email@gmail.com
9/18/2015 8:28:54	Kristy	Jones	Fairly fund our schools	kig0406@gmail.com
9/18/2015 8:28:02	Kristy	Jones	Fairly fund our schools!	kig0406@gmail.com
9/18/2015 10:03:10	Lori Reeves	149 Ascot Dr Mount Royal NJ 08061		Lreeves1012@comcast.net
9/18/2015 11:40:57	Beth Sprigman	722 Farnhouse Road Mickleton NJ 08056		Bsprigman@hotmail.com
9/18/2015 11:42:02	Charles Sprigman	722 Farnhouse Road Mickleton NJ 08056		Csprig@comcast.net
9/18/2015 15:36:17	Barb Player	92 Eagleview Terrace Mount Royal NJ 08061		player.barb@yahoo.com
9/19/2015 21:30:59	Stephanie smith	113 weathervane dr, Mount Royal nj 08061		Smithsteph22@comcast.net
9/20/2015 10:17:17	Dawn Fery	175 Billows Dr. Mount Royal NJ		
9/20/2015 19:14:18	Christie Comerford	310 W Crossing Dr		
9/20/2015 19:15:00	caroline juarsa	79 deer horn dr		CJUARSA@GMAIL.COM
9/20/2015 19:15:13	stuart xiao	79 deer horn dr		stusells@gmail.com
9/20/2015 19:15:24	Christie Comerford	310 W Crossing Dr Mount Royal NJ 08061		ccomerford@dilworthlaw.com
9/20/2015 19:16:04	Thomas Comerford	310 w Crossing Dr Mount Royal NJ 08061		thomas.comerford@bsdfm.com
9/20/2015 20:20:32	Lisa Masciangelo	211 Smallwood drive mickleton nj		
9/21/2015 8:53:24	Noelle Palladino	532 Morgan Drive Mickleton, NJ 08056		fsantos1@comcast.net
9/21/2015 14:57:30	Frank Santos	365 friendship road		Asviben@sviben.org
9/21/2015 15:43:32	Alisha Sviben	158 Tradewinds dr Mount Royal, NJ		angle.hunter@outlook.com
9/21/2015 17:49:24	Angela M. Hunter	547 Morgan Dr. Mickleton NJ 08056		stedrow@bayada.com
9/22/2015 10:04:06	Suzann Price-Tedrow	21 Curtmantle Rd. Mickleton, NJ 08056		sumanjacob@yahoo.com
9/22/2015 10:38:35	Suman Jacob	230 Hopkins Rd		Jhaines4@comcast.net
9/23/2015 5:54:55	Jennifer Agness	359 Carriage Dr.Mount Royal, NJ 08061		tonkessler@gmail.com
9/23/2015 11:34:34	Toni Kessler	178 Prairie View Ln Mickleton, NJ 08056		gobercpa@yahoo.com
9/23/2015 18:53:59	James Gober	824 Middlesborough Way, Mickleton, NJ 08056		Agoncalves531@gmail.com
9/23/2015 19:57:25	Amanda Goncalves	549 Kings Hwy Mickleton NJ 08056		sharon.foth@gmail.com
9/24/2015 7:03:41	Sharon Foth	58 Forage Drive, Mickleton NJ 08056		bmymers2@gmail.com
9/24/2015 8:34:22	Lora Myers	73 Sunset Drive, Mt. Royal, NJ 08061		charris1013@gmail.com
9/24/2015 9:45:38	Coleen Harris	173 Billows Drive, Mt. Royal, NJ 08061		lamcnames@yahoo.com
9/24/2015 9:49:40	Lauren Wilkes	162 Prairie View Lane Mickleton, NJ 08056		rbnatkin@msn.com
9/24/2015 12:45:03	Rachel Natkin	4 Randolph Court		
9/24/2015 15:26:50	Leigh C. Simpson, M.Ed.	8 Weatherby Avenue	As a resident of EGT and a school administrator in New Jersey, the students of East Greenwich and Kingsway deserve to have their education fully funded. I urge those in a position to do so to rectify this situation immediately.	lbwsimpson@gmail.com
9/26/2015 8:38:22	Sumana Stephenson	234 BARTLETT DR		sumana.stephenson@gmail.com
9/28/2015 8:58:35	Rich Whitworth	107 Quail Ridge Way Mickleton nj		rwhitwor107@comcast.net
9/28/2015 22:05:11	Jeff Hunter	547 Morgan Drive - Mickleton, NJ 08056	Please properly and fairly fund the East Greenwich and Kingsway Regional School District	jeffreyhunter@hotmail.com
9/28/2015 22:27:46	Fabianna Kleinot	365 Conccetta Drive Mount Royal, NJ		fapadula@comcast.net
9/29/2015 8:40:23	Deanna Tyers	109 SUNSET DRIVE MT ROYAL NJ 08061		
9/29/2015 13:30:34	Jeffrey R. Hunter	547 Morgan Drive Mickleton, NJ 08056		jeff@hunterdoor.com
9/30/2015 13:46:55	Tracy Brown	214 Bartlett Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		tracyimartin@hotmail.com
9/30/2015 16:24:01	Cynthia A. Morris	PO box 104. 95 democrat road Mickleton	Please give us our fair share of funding.	camorris53@yahoo.com

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
9/30/2015 23:37:29	Kyle Forst	267 Genesee Road Clarksboro		kyleforst@hotmail.com
10/2/2015 19:45:52	Karen Johnson	399 Doerrmann Drive		kifohns@comcast.net
10/4/2015 11:23:50	Stephanie Pretzell	164 Kayla Drive Mount Royal, NJ 08061		Spretzell@comcast.net
10/4/2015 11:24:27	Adolfo Pretzell	164 Kayla Drive Mount Royal, NJ 08061		Aeprettell@comcast.net
10/5/2015 11:11:31	Nicole Dixon	130 Evergreen Court, Mount Royal 08061		ndixon@wdepford.k12.nj.us
10/5/2015 13:03:44	Pauline Ratkowiak	704 Rachael Drive		pcratkowiak@comcast.net
10/5/2015 14:11:15	Kathryn A Pacewicz	706 Nicole Drive, Mickleton, NJ		kate_frat@yahoo.com
10/5/2015 20:54:18	Craig Clifford	2 Flurry Court, Mt Royal NJ 08061		kmm52204@yahoo.com
10/6/2015 21:36:06	Kelly Neal	106 Sunset Dr		Gabmuraca@hotmail.com
10/8/2015 6:33:28	Gabriella mcloskey	425 birch dr., mickleton nj 08055		wease1992@comcast.net
10/8/2015 7:47:31	louise yates	161 alyssa dr		groom1992@comcast.net
10/8/2015 7:48:04	mike yates	161 alyssa dr		ashleynpeddle@gmail.com
10/8/2015 17:20:26	Ashley Peddle	202 Hopkins Rd. Mickleton, NJ 08056		Rmuhjir@comcast.net
10/8/2015 19:38:40	Robert C. Muhbauer Jr.	6 Mantua Rd, P.O. Box 272, Mt. Royal, NJ 08061		michaelmccarty@yahoo.com
10/10/2015 16:47:58	Michael K. McCarty RN	111 East Cohawkin Road, Clarksboro, NJ 08020	Please update your stupid system and make this fair for all our children	kellydukich@msn.com
10/13/2015 8:51:25	Kelly Dukich	536 Morgan Drive Mickleton NJ 08056		kellydukich@msn.com
10/13/2015 9:00:57	Kelly Dukich	536 Morgan Drive Mickleton NJ 08056		Mbehtrich@yahoo.com
10/13/2015 20:35:25	Mary Beth Rosauer	363 West Crossing Dr Mount Royal NJ 08061		atorrella@yahoo.com
10/14/2015 20:14:44	Deanna Tyers	109 Sunset Drive My Royal nj 08061		lsahickey@live.com
10/15/2015 7:22:40	Karen Tortella	276 Jennings Way Mickleton NJ		mramoscomp@gmail.com
10/16/2015 9:38:36	Jenn Novellus	118 Tammy Lane Mickleton		timback@hotmail.com
10/22/2015 10:47:13	Lisa Hickey	203 Smallwood Drive, Mickleton NJ 08056	petition for funding	sjbell621@gmail.com
10/26/2015 9:23:37	Maria Ramos	316 Carriage Drive		Nicolosidanielle@gmail.com
10/28/2015 11:43:52	Timothy Back	353 Carriage Dr, Mount Royal, NJ 08061		aileen.parker@aol.com
10/29/2015 10:14:24	Sarah Bell	175 Prairie View Lane		Momdger@comcast.net
10/30/2015 8:45:43	Karey Kidd	823 Derilus drive mickleton 08056		einksmith@gmail.com
11/2/2015 1:39:13	Danielle Nicolosi	808 Derilus Dr		aimeelynn14@hotmail.com
11/2/2015 10:20:18	Aileen Parker	60 Curtmantle Rd		Rileysophia@gmail.com
11/2/2015 19:16:36	Gertrude M Kosek	244 Landing Road		kristie718@gmail.com
11/3/2015 0:12:52	Elin K Smith	330 Barbara Drive		bburke@wdepford.k12.nj.us
11/3/2015 10:22:46	Almee Rivello	421 Conceffa Drive		breeves1012@comcast.net
11/4/2015 6:38:25	Raquel Dorofy	248 Landing Rd Clarksboro, NJ 08020		lgheld2@gmail.com
11/8/2015 20:05:55	Robbisue Sambucci	126 Sambar Lane Mount Royal NJ 08061		ymcasiano123@comcast.net
11/9/2015 5:09:49	Katherine Ricci	13 Stone Ridge Dr.		jschmid151@comcast.net
11/9/2015 10:20:05	Kristie LaRocca	137 Sunset Dr	Our children deserve the same funding as other local schools. How do children learn without text books and limited supplies?	
11/10/2015 10:41:31	Brendan Burke	87 Sunset Dr		sbrudnicki@comcast.net
11/12/2015 10:20:39	Brad Reeves	149 Ascit Drive Mount Royal NJ 08061		ryan.peddle@gmail.com
11/13/2015 9:03:31	Lisa Held	824 Derilus Dr, Mickleton NJ 08056		Kco.flauri@gmail.com
11/16/2015 15:51:56	Yvonne Casiano	381 Kings Highway		
11/16/2015 21:09:45	Brian Donahue	41 Quaker Rd. Mickleton		
11/17/2015 10:43:02	Jim Schmidt	320 lannelli Rd Clarksboro		
11/17/2015 21:44:04	tracy bishop	239 Kings Hwy, Clarksboro nj 08020		
11/21/2015 8:01:58	Sharon Brudnicki	236 Jennings Court		
11/21/2015 13:40:20	Ryan Peddle	202 Hopkins Rd		
11/22/2015 21:56:38	Claudia Flauri	91 Deer Horn Dr., Mount Royal, NJ		

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
1/22/2015 21:57:39	Kevin Filauri	91 Deer Horn Dr., Mount Royal, NJ		Kco.filauri@gmail.com
1/22/2015 22:42:08	Patricia Delaney	352 Concetta drive		funnyface2026@aol.com
1/24/2015 8:24:25	Carole Vogel	278 Jennings Way Mickleton NJ		
1/24/2015 20:42:03	JOHN HEDRICK	247 JENNINGS WAY		HEDRICKJW@COMCAST.NET
1/29/2015 22:06:48	Kelly Moore	223 Cohawkin Road		Kellymoore71@Gmail.com
12/3/2015 13:45:25	Maria Ramos	316 Carriage Drive, Mt Royal, NJ 08061		mramoscmp@gmail.com
12/4/2015 11:29:49	Rachel Coleman	254 Kings Highway Clarksboro, NJ 08020		Rachel_1209@yahoo.com
12/10/2015 11:41:56	Abiade Ogunisola	53 Quaker road, Mickleton, NJ 08056		Abjide@gmail.com
12/21/2015 13:30:45	Dominic Gambino	217 Waterbury Court, Mt. Royal, NJ 08061		dominicgambino@yahoo.com
1/3/2016 10:09:48	Bill Nevius	118 Tammy Lane Mickleton		nevius20@yahoo.com
1/4/2016 10:25:19	Greta Schiffer-Mock	708 Kings Highway, Mickleton, NJ 08056	As a parent of two young students, they deserve the same things as the other school districts are getting.	gretab7@comcast.net
1/11/2016 14:34:18	Linda Tomlin	218 Hopkins Road		thetomlins4@gmail.com
1/11/2016 14:34:45	Bruce Tomlin	218 Hopkins Road, Mickleton, NJ 08056		thetomlins4@gmail.com
1/11/2016 16:38:03	George Mock	708 Kings Highway, Mickleton, NJ 08056		georgem33@comcast.net
1/12/2016 14:41:24	John McPeak	395 Kings Highway Mickleton NJ 08056		jfmcpk@aol.com
1/12/2016 14:43:21	Donna Rittershausen	713 Elaine Drive, Mickleton NJ 08056		donnaritter@comcast.net
1/12/2016 14:43:42	Michelle M Lombardi	367 Concetta Drive, Mount Royal, NJ 08061	Make things right, Department of Ed!	domsmom94@comcast.net
1/12/2016 14:43:56	Tracey Wolf	165 Acorn Drive		Tracey_wolf@dcu.org
1/12/2016 14:46:54	Rose Prestopino	232 Fawn Meadow Dr		
1/12/2016 14:47:42	John DeGeorge	189 Democrat Rd, Mickleton, NJ 08056		jdegeorge@ebtrailers.com
1/12/2016 14:48:37	David Keegan	16 Stone Ridge Dr Mickleton NJ 08056		dkeeganjr@gmail.com
1/12/2016 14:49:32	Eric Harkins	158 Windsor Way, Mount Royal NJ 08061		
1/12/2016 14:51:28	Martha Cossaboon	51 Shute Farm Lane, Clarksboro, NJ 08061	Fund the district equally with other districts!	
1/12/2016 14:52:49	L.T. and Mary Vaccara	54 Shute Farm Lane, Clarksboro NJ	We deserve equitable funding. It does not make any sense for our township to be underfunded while our neighbors are overfunded. Please properly fund out schools!	tvaccara@verizon.net
1/12/2016 14:52:52	Michael Cocozza	49 Curtmantle Rd, Mickleton, NJ		mcocozza@gmail.com
1/12/2016 14:56:22	Lisa Held	824 Darius Dr, Mickleton NJ 08056		lgheld2@gmail.com
1/12/2016 14:58:06	Daniel Louderback	703 Racheal Dr		dcloud@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 14:59:24	Barbara Urbanski	37 Shute Farm Lane, Clarksboro NJ 08020		burbanski@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:01:51	Wendy Garvey	180 Windsor Way		wendygarvey@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:01:52	Anthony D'Angelis	214 Hopkins Rd, Mickleton NJ 08056		Tony_dangelis@hotmail.com
1/12/2016 15:03:53	Jayne Downing	46 Heirloom Drive, Clarksboro, NJ 08020	All schools should be underfunded equally.	jaynedowning2014@gmail.com
1/12/2016 15:05:26	Burton Panetta	248 Gaunt Dr		
1/12/2016 15:05:56	Vince	Gattuso		gattusovince@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 15:06:15	Sandra Pitts	519 Meadow Ridge Dr		jspittstop1@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:07:15	Burton Panetta	248 Gaunt Dr	In the interest of fairness Act now to properly fund East Greenwich Public Schools in East Greenwich and Kingsway Regional School in Woolwich Township and to END this unlawful travesty. Fund East Greenwich Schools Properly	ggpobpab@gmail.com
1/12/2016 15:09:35	Susan Breen	89 Myrtle Avenue, Mickleton, NJ 08056		susan.c.breen@gmail.com
1/12/2016 15:10:47	Joseph Regina	555 Partridge Court, Mickleton NJ 08056		joefregina@gmail.com
1/12/2016 15:17:02	Frank Cossaboon	51 Shute Farm Lane, Clarksboro, NJ 08020		
1/12/2016 15:23:00	Eugenie	Matyas		e-matyas@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:25:50	John rucci	104 cypress lane		Jrucci@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:26:04	Michael Taylor	215 Smallwood Drive		
1/12/2016 15:27:49	frank muraca	32 e.rattling run rd		mtcraftsman@comcast.net

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
1/12/2016 15:28:36	Lawrence T. Vaccara	54 Shute Farm Ln, Clarksboro NJ 08021		lvaccara@verizon.net
1/12/2016 15:29:56	Destree Purvenas-Hayes	757 Rattling Run Road Mickleton NJ 08056	FIX THIS!	dmpurvenas.hayes@gmail.com
1/12/2016 15:30:26	Michael Hayes	757 Rattling Run Road Mickleton NJ 08056	FIX THIS!	hazer135@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 15:35:27	Craig Kraemer	12 Marino Dr. Clarksboro		Ckraemersr@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:35:35	Tricia Mento	287 dogwood Lane, 08020	It's the right thing to do!	Tricia0728@gmail.com
1/12/2016 15:36:00	Charles	Ferris	We demand fair funding	bcferris@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:40:19	Craig Kraemer	12 Marino Dr. Clarksboro		Ckraemersr@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:41:48	Lisa Wilkinson	217 Pine Mill Rd Clarksboro NJ 08020		Lmw72@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:41:57	Barbara Ferris	48 Brandywine Dr, Clarksboro.	I want fair funding	bcferris@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:45:20	Clifford Gilpin	32 W. Tomlin Station Rd, Mickleton, NJ	The state needs to bring the funding to parity with similar systems. This has been going on for some years and as such the should also be compensated for prior under funding.	
1/12/2016 15:46:20	Amy Jones	178 Westbrook Court	Please fund all schools fairly and equitably.	amy.jones@xerox.com
1/12/2016 15:46:25	Dolores Goess	111 Timberlane Road, Clarksboro, NJ 08020		sweetie0712@me.com
1/12/2016 15:50:11	George Crawford	201 East Cohawkin Rd	How is it even legal to "steal" from one area and give it to another? Maybe legal action should be taken and this travesty be made public on the media!	gcrawfcohawk@hotmail.com
1/12/2016 15:52:13	David E Wilkinson	217 Pine Mill Road		
1/12/2016 16:07:28	Joseph O'Connor	72 Harmony Rd.		joe623@comcast.net
1/12/2016 16:07:57	Vincent Corabi	153 Windsor Way		vorabi@gmail.com
1/12/2016 16:12:04	Anthony Donofrio	101 timberlane rd		beaconlight5@verizon.net
1/12/2016 16:16:27	Kristine Bergmann	40 Democrat Rd, Mickleton NJ 08056	Properly fund our schools! It's only fair for our students and taxpayers!	Kbergmann@comcast.net
1/12/2016 16:18:17	Joe Sapp	329 Iannelli Road Clarksboro, NJ 08020		joesapp@outlook.com
1/12/2016 16:18:34	Joanne Hutchison	68 CedarRoad, Mickleton, NJ 08056		jhutchisonx2@gmail.com
1/12/2016 16:18:46	John	Dormann Sr.	Please fund East greenwich as it should be. My taxes went from \$4,300.00 to \$12,000.00 since I built my house.	dormann5@comcast.net
1/12/2016 16:22:06	Diane Wagner	63 Democrat Road, Mickleton, NJ, 08056	Please re-consider ypur decision to fairly fund our elementary and high school districts fairly at the state mandated level. We are	Dswagner32@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 16:24:18	Thomas Gaskill	9 Jubilee Dr, Clarksboro	We need at least our fair share of the state funding!	cedarisland1@comcast.net
1/12/2016 16:33:49	Joseph Nachman	510 Kings Hwy		jnachman6@gmail.com
1/12/2016 16:40:01	Tammie Lee bickford	52 forage Dr Mickleton NJ		Tirebel@comcast.net
1/12/2016 16:42:27	Cindy Miles	111 Cpyress Ln, Mickleton NJ		cindy miles5@comcast.net
1/12/2016 16:43:17	Paul Kilgus	242 Landing Rd, Clarksboro	Obey the law and give the Township what is right and just.	kilgskat@aol.com
1/12/2016 16:45:29	Marian Purzycki	521 Meadow Ridge Drive		purzycki_marian@hotmail.com
1/12/2016 16:48:04	gerald hutchison	68 Cedar Rd Mickleton NJ	Be fair and get it RIGHT !	jhutchisonx2@gmail.com
1/12/2016 16:49:49	Corrine Brickner	29 Somers Ave., Clarksboro, NJ 08020	I agree that the total pie for funding should be divided fairly.	ponygirl06@verizon.net
1/12/2016 16:50:00	J Fearon	82 Harmony Road	I am very thankful our township committee is providing this information to the tax payers. It is a travesty to learn other districts are overfunded at our expense!	jifearon@live.com
1/12/2016 16:50:01	Joseph Gallagher	24 Clover Ridge Drive, Mickleton NJ		giggerpsu@msn.com
1/12/2016 16:51:11	Constance G Gaskill	9 Jubilee Dr, Clarksboro	Please do the right thing and fund our schools, thank you	egg3@comcast.net
1/12/2016 16:52:34	John Brickner	29 Somers Ave., Clarksboro, NJ 08020	It is not right that our school district should not receive its fair portion of the State's total school funding. We pay our fair share of taxes, too.	jbbrick@verizon.net
1/12/2016 16:53:22	Kathy Kilgus	242 Landing Rd, Clarksboro	Equal Education to all NJ students	kathykilgus@gmail.com
1/12/2016 16:54:12	Dan Rigney	10 Putnam Ct		Riggs322@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 16:54:21	Dan Rigney	10 Putnam Ct		Riggs322@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 16:55:20	Stephanie Rigney	10 Putnam Ct		Teachmath11@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 16:56:43	Charles K. McLaughlin	231 Tohopecka Rd, Clarksboro, NJ, 08020	Do what is right and fair.	Charleyrmyboy@yahoo.com

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
1/12/2016 16:57:41	McLaughlin	231 Tohopecka Rd, Clarksboro, NJ, 08020	Do what is right and fair.	Charleymyboy@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 16:57:59	carol vassallo	251 Jessup Mill Road	the inequity in funding between adjoining townships must be eliminated.	carol.vassallo@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 17:00:08	Jerry A Stone	7 Garwood Blvd. Clarksboro NJ 08020		jerrystonehead@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 17:01:03	Judith A. McLaughlin	231 Tohopecka Rd Clarksboro NJ , 08020	Be fair	Charleymyboy@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 17:23:56	Gail Westervelt	403 Doerrmann Drive		
1/12/2016 17:32:51	diane shore	181 prairie view lane		diane.shore@comcast.net
1/12/2016 17:35:36	Michael Minniti	238 Smallwood Drive Mickleton NJ 08056	Please adequately fund our schools in East Greenwich Township.	Miminn15@comcast.net
1/12/2016 17:36:41	John	Hasson	I am very thankful our township committee is providing this information to the tax payers. It is a travesty to learn other districts are overfunded at our expense!	Jmhasson126@gmail.com
1/12/2016 17:41:02	J Fearon	82 Harmony Road	Fair funding for all.	jfearon@live.com
1/12/2016 17:42:14	Peter Kunsallits	789 Chelsea Glenn Road, Clarksboro, NJ 08020		
1/12/2016 17:46:42	Karen Johnson	399 Doerrmann Drive Mickleton, NJ 08056		kifjohns@comcast.net
1/12/2016 18:02:55	Bill Bentley	562 partridge ct, Mickleton,nj	Please law makers make the burden fair across neighboring towns at the very least	chefwonka@hotmail.com
1/12/2016 18:15:57	Carlo	Tosceno	We are only asking for fair treatment like other NJ districts	cjos@verizon.net
1/12/2016 18:23:20	Lorraine Brady	55 Curtmantle Rd, Mickleton, NJ 08056		Loribrady3@msn.com
1/12/2016 18:29:35	Geraldine Wilgus	206 Brysons Way amount Royal NJ 08061		dontcallmegerl@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 18:34:39	Linda Turk	204 Brysons Way, Mt Royal, NJ		turkl@comcast.net
1/12/2016 18:34:58	Amanda Kennedy	213 Waterbury Court	The distribution of funding should be equal for each municipality. It is unfair to students and unfair to taxpayers.	alk220@gmail.com
1/12/2016 19:04:31	Craig Kraemer	12 Marino Dr. Clarksboro		Ckraemers@comcast.net
1/12/2016 19:06:40	Godfrey Brown	34 W Tomlin Station Rd	We all should be funded fairly regardless of where you live.	godfrey.brown58@gmail.com
1/12/2016 19:18:38	Andrew Stankovich	205 Sullivan Drive	Please fund our schools fairly compared to the rest of the state!	Aps142@comcast.net
1/12/2016 19:27:20	Jessica Van Tassel	337 Kings highway, Clarksboro nj	Reconsider and be FAIR to East Greenwich	sjpessie@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 19:28:43	Arthur C Ebert Jr	112 East Wolfert Station Road		theartoffishing@usa.net
1/12/2016 19:35:03	Dana Richards	162 Tradewinds Drive		Danaandryan@comcast.net
1/12/2016 19:43:37	Jeff taylor	716 Nicole drive Mickleton nj	Find us fairly	Jeffrey.j.taylor@outlook.com
1/12/2016 19:43:46	Patrick J Crowe Jr	546 Kings Highway East Greenwich NJ 08056		pattisa86@aol.com
1/12/2016 19:46:51	Gary L Breen	89 Myrtle Ave., East Greenwich, NJ 08056		gary.l.breen@gmail.com
1/12/2016 19:52:11	Tina Carrozza	330 Concetta Drive		Tinacarozza@gmail.com
1/12/2016 19:57:17	Anne Marsh	9 Garwood Blvd, Clarksboro NJ 08020		annemarsh@comcast.net
1/12/2016 19:59:39	Fred Cuddy	81 Myrtle Ave., Mickleton, NJ 08056	Why? Why are we underfunded?	fcuddy4@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 20:14:35	WILLIAM LANGE	285 GREEN TER	As a teacher and a taxpayer I know how important it is for the state to fund our schools.	williamplange@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 20:25:08	Apryl palazzo	226 Smallwood drive, mickleton, nj		Aprylpalazzo@hotmail.com
1/12/2016 20:30:07	Erik Daugherty	20 Putnam Court Mickleton, NJ		Edoc17@hotmail.com
1/12/2016 20:32:45	Robert Anicic	730 Farmhouse Rd., Mickleton, NJ 08056	I believe that the State of NJ owes the residents of East Greenwich an answer to why East Greenwich and Kingsway School districts are being under-funded?	rganicic4@comcast.net
1/12/2016 20:38:38	Stacy Dawson	358 concetta drive Mount Royal New Jersey	Fund our schools fairly!	Smscel2214@comcast.net
1/12/2016 20:47:45	Rebecca Popp	560 Kings Hwy		Rebeccapopp@verizon.net
1/12/2016 20:48:57	Lenora Popp	560 Kings Hwy		Lenorapopp@verizon.net
1/12/2016 20:54:39	Edward Deegan	544 Morgan Ave Mickleton NJ 08056		
1/12/2016 21:24:19	K. Carfagno	East Greenwich Twp.,		Kcarfagno@comcast.net
1/12/2016 21:28:37	Tina Kennedy	110 Quail Ridge Way	Schools need to be funded equally.	ina.kennedy@verizon.com
1/12/2016 22:09:42	Eric hallman	163 prairie view lane Mickleton		Ehallman12@gmail.com

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
1/12/2016 22:10:07	Dawn Hallman	163 prairie view lane		Dhallman163@gmail.com
1/12/2016 22:13:25	Caroline Capasso	86 West Tomlin Station Rd		Carolinecapasso@comcast.net
1/12/2016 22:15:53	Allison Ferla	43 Forage Drive Mickleton NJ	I am outraged at this. Shame on NJ.	ferla1313@gmail.com
1/12/2016 22:17:57	Marjo Miles	111 Cypress Lane, Mickleton, NJ 08056		
1/12/2016 22:19:16	Jessica Wadleigh	169 Cedar Rd, Mickleton NJ	Be fair to everyone in the community.	Matthew.Arredondo@crozer.org
1/12/2016 22:21:13	Matthew Arredondo	736 Fairhouse Rd Mickleton NJ		
1/12/2016 22:24:50	William Piper	419 Cherry Lane Mickleton		
1/12/2016 22:25:34	Michael W. Meyer	538 Morgan Dr., Mickleton, NJ 08056	We seek only what is fair, equitable, and required by existing law	Michael.w.meyer@gmail.com
1/12/2016 22:25:22	Patricia Doria	7 Still Run Dr., Mickleton, NJ		patdoria@comcast.net
1/12/2016 22:27:59	Danielle Nicolosi	808 Derius Dr Mickleton, NJ 08056		Nicolosidanlele@gmail.com
1/12/2016 22:29:43	Nate Marino	124 E. Wolfert Station Rd.		aaa5960@comcast.net
1/12/2016 23:01:18	Angela Marino	124 E. Wolfert Station Rd.		aaa5960@comcast.net
1/13/2016 1:14:00	Ginny Newkirk	17 Clover Ridge Dr, Mickelson NJ	Treat E. Greenwich Kingsway Districts fairly	sngn@verizon.net
1/13/2016 6:16:43	Rachel Koll	48 Linden Ave., Mantua NJ 08051	I will soon be moving to East Greenwich. I would like for this funding situation to be reviewed.	rkoll327@yahoo.com
1/13/2016 6:19:19	Richard Tighe	25 Weatherby Avenue	I think its time to start voting for common sense politicians	rtighe@comcast.net
1/13/2016 6:56:39	Larry Green	708 Union Rd	Stop the nonsense and be fair!	lrygm@comcast.net
1/13/2016 7:13:05	Kelsey Minniti	238 Smallwood Drive Mickleton NJ 08056		donnafonte@aol.com
1/13/2016 7:23:30	Donna M Fonte	109 Quail Ridge Way, Mickleton, NJ		lawrence.c.stephens.iii@gmail.com
1/13/2016 7:32:15	Larry Stephens	46 W Cohawkin Rd Clarksboro, NJ 08020	Please consider fair distribution	G.malesich@yahoo.com
1/13/2016 8:09:34	Greg Malesich	233 Smallwood dr mickleton nj 08056		jdcostanzo@comcast.net
1/13/2016 8:58:37	John Costanzo	20 Polo Run Mickleton NJ 08056	Funding is necessary to produce well rounded students	Dr.frazier@gmail.com
1/13/2016 9:22:19	Dr. Ira V. Frazier	56 Brandywine Dr. East Greenwich, NJ	Do what is fair and right to all school districts. The State shouldn't be biased as to one district over another.	ladydl655@comcast.net
1/13/2016 9:27:22	Diane M. King	39 Cedar Rd		s.skabicki@verizon.net
1/13/2016 9:40:06	stanley skabicki	5 weatherby ave		
1/13/2016 9:51:07	William L. Bowe	153 E Wolfert Station Rd, Mickleton NJ 08056		
1/13/2016 9:52:11	Sylvia A. Bowe	153 E Wolfert Station Rd, Mickleton NJ 08056		
1/13/2016 9:52:35	Gary Turk	204 Brysons Way, Mt. Royal, NJ 08061		
1/13/2016 9:55:11	Patrick Faulkner	207 Brysons Way	Fair is Fair	pfault@gmail.com
1/13/2016 10:02:40	Robert Wilgus	206 Brysons Way Mount Royal NJ 08061		
1/13/2016 10:03:34	Robert Wilgus	206 Brysons Way Mount Royal NJ 08061		
1/13/2016 10:05:17	Fran Wilgus	89 Gaunt Dr Mickleton NJ 08056		
1/13/2016 10:35:14	Frank Carfagno	12 Tollgate Road, Mickleton 08056		fcarfagno@comcast.net
1/13/2016 10:42:27	Thomas Strifen	209 Brysons Way Mount Royal, NJ 08061		lenpurz@gmail.com
1/13/2016 10:57:13	Leonard Purzycki	521 Meadow Ridge Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		denssb@comcast.net
1/13/2016 11:19:49	Dennis Ballance	11 GARWOOD BLVD	GIVE OUR STUDENTS A FAIR CHANCE	
1/13/2016 11:42:00	Stephen	Jardel		
1/13/2016 13:04:19	Maria Sullivan	103 Cypress Lane Mickleton, NJ 08056	I have lived in East Greenwich for 40 years. Now I am a senior citizen on a fixed income who must pick up the burden because East Greenwich Schools and Kingsway Regional are extremely underfunded!! That is not fair.	polkadots@comcast.net
1/13/2016 13:06:43	Nicole Puskar	391 Concetta Dr, Mount Royal, NJ 08061		nicolepuskar@yahoo.com
1/13/2016 13:45:33	Patrick M Driver	25 Shady Lane Rd. Clarksboro NJ 08010		
1/13/2016 13:49:30	melissa doyne	165 hollybush gardens glassboro nj 08028	it is a disgrace how south Jersey schools are being taken care of	mellisawanson82@yahoo.com
1/13/2016 14:15:53	Joanne Nayale	55 Brandywine Dr.		natalejm@yahoo.com
1/13/2016 14:17:21	Sarah Gloeckner	314 w crossing dr Mount Royal NJ	Please act now	Sigloeck@yahoo.com

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Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
1/13/2016 14:17:55	Michael Natale	55 Brandywine Dr.		natalejm@yahoo.com
1/13/2016 14:48:44	Ana Woolston	329 Carriage Drive, Mount Royal, NJ 08061		bridget@collins-home.net
1/13/2016 14:57:20	Bridget Collins	5 Campbell Court Mickleton NJ 08056		dbobo31@hotmail.com
1/13/2016 16:08:37	Donald Rambo	105 Brynwood Ct Mickleton, NJ 08056		Kate_frat@yahoo.com
1/13/2016 18:05:22	Kathryn Pacewicz	706 Nicole Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		mikemccune1@comcast.net
1/13/2016 20:31:00	Michael McCune	52 Providence Road, Mickleton, NJ		gagro@verizon.net
1/13/2016 20:42:39	Richard Gaglianone	416 Birch Drive	Do the right thing now please	smyersrn@juno.com
1/13/2016 21:03:24	Sonia Myers	210 Leonard Avenue Clarksboro, NJ 08020		donnagabler2@comcast.net
1/13/2016 21:11:26	Christina Pierce	115 West Wolfert Station Rd Mickleton, NJ 08056		Jmwolfhfarth@gmail.com
1/13/2016 21:46:19	Donna Gabler	30 New Oak Rd	I think this issue is very important	
1/13/2016 23:04:38	James wohlfarth	266 dogwood lane Clarksboro		
1/14/2016 7:02:41	Ruth Eastlack	323 Fox Chase Rd		jackleg100@comcast.net
1/14/2016 7:04:19	David Eastlack	323 Fox Chase Rd, Clarksboro, NJ		
1/14/2016 7:53:55	Henry & Jacqueline Geis	100 Brookhollow Ct.	You are overtaxing the residents in three age-restricted communities that have no children in the school systems!	jdixeyjill15502@comcast.net
1/14/2016 9:26:23	John & Nancy Dixey	449 Country Way		Kellym.tedesco@gmail.com
1/14/2016 10:42:35	Kelly Tedesco	88 Weatherwane Dr Mount Royal, NJ 08061		Kellym.tedesco@gmail.com
1/14/2016 10:42:50	Kelly Tedesco	88 Weatherwane Dr Mount Royal, NJ 08061		ghcm@comcast.net
1/14/2016 11:05:29	Grace	Mickleton, NJ	You are cheating schools as you have cheated retired teachers.	psmontgomery@comcast.net
1/14/2016 11:21:43	Patrick S Montgomery	Mickleton, NJ		Khercker@yahoo.com
1/14/2016 13:18:01	Krystin hercker	142 west wolfert station road mickleton rd 08056		arborrita@comcast.net
1/14/2016 16:01:29	Rita Bruner	69 Gaunt Drive	sr. citizens should be given a break on school taxes	
1/14/2016 16:05:17	Robert B. Brady	55 Curtmantle Rd.	This is one of the big reasons why people can't afford to stay in E. G. Maybe tell the state that I'm only able to part some of my taxes. Where is Sen. Sweeney on this issue?	Bobbrady5@gmail.com
1/14/2016 17:05:28	Joseph C. Morris	289 Dogwood Lane		Jomorris7@gmail.com
1/14/2016 18:18:31	Natalie M Medaugh	15 Marino Drive	I want school funding to be distributed fairly please. I whole heartedly endorse the above petition	nataliemedaugh@gmail.com
1/14/2016 18:19:34	Meade G Medaugh, Sr.	15 Marino Drive Clarksboro, NJ	I endorse the above petition request	nataliemedaugh@gmail.com
1/14/2016 18:21:08	Meade G Medaugh, Jr.	15 Marino Drive Clarksboro, NJ	I endorse the above petition request	
1/14/2016 20:19:17	Joseph Wiedmayer	204 Sullivan Drive Mickleton, NJ		jfwiedmayer@gmail.com
1/14/2016 20:19:57	Melissa Wiedmayer	204 Sullivan Drive Mickleton, NJ		mrandmrsweeds@gmail.com
1/14/2016 20:50:27	Janice Gibson	71 E Tomlin Station Road Mickleton N J	This lack of funding not only hurts the students and parents of the East Greenwich and Kingsway school districts, it also hurts the senior citizens who are on limited incomes! Please act now to adequately fund East Greenwich and Woolwich school districts!	Skpgibson@yahoo.com
1/14/2016 21:16:48	Stephanie Cosentino	319 carriage drive, Mount Royal nj		Bwmanzta@yahoo.com
1/15/2016 11:01:26	Jenny Greco	349 Carriage Drive, Mount Royal NJ 08061		jfgreco1@comcast.net
1/15/2016 11:02:01	Anthony Greco	349 Carriage Drive, Mount Royal NJ 08061		jfgreco1@comcast.net
1/15/2016 18:28:59	Stephanie Cosentino	319 carriage drive, Mount Royal nj		Bwmanzta@yahoo.com
1/16/2016 8:30:55	Albert Michal	216 Bartlett Drive Mickleton, NJ 08056		albmic@ gmail.com
1/16/2016 10:26:48	Michael Hall	825 Deritus Drive		mikevnhall@gmail.com
1/16/2016 10:59:24	Chris Hamer	213 Waterbury Ct. Mount Royal, NJ 08061		christopherhamer@gmail.com
1/16/2016 11:09:22	John Hickey	203 Smallwood Drive Mickleton, NJ 08056	This town is becoming too expensive to live due to the local school taxes. We work hard and pay our taxes and all we ask is to be treated equally by our state government.	johnhickey@me.com

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Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
1/16/2016 11:09:38	John Hickey	203 Smallwood Drive Mickleton, NJ 08056	This town is becoming too expensive to live due to the local school taxes. We work hard and pay our taxes and all we ask is to be treated equally by our state government.	johnhickey@me.com
1/16/2016 21:31:54	Aleksandar Mirkovic	216 Sullivan Dr. Mickleton, NJ 08056		Aleks.mirkovic@yahoo.com
1/16/2016 23:38:56	MaryJo Sabatini	4 Garwood Blvd clarksboro	make the funding fair for all school districts	fudo10@hotmail.com
1/17/2016 7:59:30	Denise Cinousis	85 deer horn drive		
1/18/2016 10:18:33	Judith Rosen	51 Brown Ter. Clarksboro nj 08020	The local salaries and in my case retirement income do not support the unfair school tax burden placed on our residents. I am committed to keeping our school system great, but we really need a fair share of state tax money allocated to our schools.	jrose51@comcast.net
1/18/2016 11:03:44	Karey Kidd	823 Derlius Drive mickleton nj		Kareykidd@gmail.com
1/18/2016 21:01:53	Ann Larwa	100 Sunset Dr 08061		alanwa04@yahoo.com
1/18/2016 21:24:23	Delphine Mundorf	12 Curriden Avenue, Clarksboro, NJ 08020		mibrant@comcast.net
1/19/2016 8:32:16	Mary Lynn Brand	121 Weatherlane Drive, Mount Royal, NJ 08061	Please properly fund our schools!	rc.brand@comcast.net
1/19/2016 8:33:17	Raymond Brand	121 Weatherlane Drive, Mount Royal, NJ 08061	Please properly fund our schools!	
1/19/2016 19:18:14	Alfred Malinoski	38 Democrat Road, Mickleton, NJ 08056	This a very good idea, Since our governor is out of state lately, you may want use the power of news media and television reporting to help this cause.	malinoski38@comcast.net
1/20/2016 23:49:35	Elin K Smith	330 Barbara Drive		elinksmith@gmail.com
1/21/2016 7:03:37	Matthew Ellison	374 West Crossing Dr.	As a resident for seven years, I've gone from glowing reviews of the school system, to being very concerned about the quality of their Special Services, and the resources necessary to provide a decent school experience throughout the day! I have professional experience throughout South Jersey working in Special Services in many districts and attribute the declines primarily to funding, not staffing or misallocation of school funds. Please lend reconsideration to the Percent of Uncapped Aid due East Greenwich Public Schools in East Greenwich and Kingsway Regional School District in Woolwich. Thank you!	mae0001@comcast.net
1/21/2016 20:08:19	Karl Marshall	115 Sronham way Mickleton nj		karlmarshall@comcast.net
1/24/2016 9:18:21	John Lewis	139 W. Tomlin Station Rd Mickleton NJ	Fair Funding	tlewis136@comcast.net
1/24/2016 16:33:30	Carmen Marrero	242 Bartlett Drive, Mickleton NJ 08056		Rojmar@aol.com
1/25/2016 8:30:10	Janet Weber	106 Acorn Drive, Mount Royal, NJ 08061		salementiere9154@gmail.com
1/25/2016 10:53:53	ElVia carmona	97 Oakridge dr Mount Royal, nj 08061		klydsbonny@aol.com
1/29/2016 9:35:02	Nicole Puskar	391 Conceita Dr, Mt Royal, NJ 08061		Nicolepuskar@yahoo.com
1/29/2016 12:09:15	Robert Gould	243 Kings Highway Clarksboro NJ 08020	Please Properly Fund Our School Districts. Fair Funding!	rg14220@yahoo.com
2/3/2016 20:45:30	Kimberly	105 Laurel Wood DR.		
2/5/2016 9:26:25	Kristen Monteiro	6 Randolph Court	Please fund our schools properly	ksangel95@hotmail.com
2/5/2016 13:02:27	Laura DeCinque	21 New Oak Road Mickleton NJ 08056		ldecinque@comcast.net
2/9/2016 6:40:57	Danielle Nicolosi	808 Derlius Dr Mickleton NJ 08056		Nicolosidanielle@gmail.com
2/10/2016 14:16:43	Anthony Skalski	53 Forage Drive, Mickleton, NJ		tskai27@gmail.com
2/10/2016 14:17:49	Antonella Skalski	53 Forage Drive, Mickleton, NJ		tskai@comcast.net
2/10/2016 23:27:03	Mary Kay Croneberger	59 Currant Drive Clarksboro 08020	Our schools must be fully funded. Our students deserve this.	crone2248@aol.com
2/11/2016 13:12:39	Leigh C Simpson	8 Weatherby Avenue Clarksboro NJ 08020		lbwsimpson@gmail.com
2/11/2016 18:53:46	Joseph Regina	555 Partridge Court		joefregina@gmail.com
2/12/2016 16:42:20	Dolores Regina	555 Partridge Court Mickleton, NJ 08056		lorrie1147@comcast.net
2/13/2016 20:09:15	Andrea Woolley	46 Forage Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		
2/13/2016 20:09:30	Luke Woolley	46 Forage Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		
2/14/2016 15:59:26	Kevin M Foth	58 Forage Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		
2/15/2016 7:38:38	anthony negro	811 castleton drive	We are not asking for more funding, we are asking you to simply fund our schools at the levels you have set	anthonynegro@comcast.net

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Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
2/18/2016 8:23:23	Richard Stinik	68 Woodbury Ct, Clarksboro		4coupons@comcast.net
2/19/2016 8:23:45	Mildred Stinik	68 Woodbury Ct, Clarksboro		4coupons@comcast.net
2/19/2016 15:28:39	bonnie archer	399 kings hwy mickleton nj 08056		bonnie.archer.email@gmail.com
2/23/2016 10:48:42	Dawn Underwood	354 W Crossing Drive, Mount Royal, NJ		
2/23/2016 10:49:10	Shawn Underwood	354 W Crossing Dr, Mount Royal, NJ		
2/23/2016 12:44:20	Walter Leavey	364 W. Crossing Drive Mt. Royal, NJ 08061		WaltLeaveyJr@aol.com
3/5/2016 18:26:06	Raphael Altmann	844 Cymbeline Ct		Raltmann70@gmail.com
3/9/2016 20:46:26	Maria Estaballo	141 Tradewinds Drive Mount Royal,NJ, 08061	Please distribute to our schools our fair share of state funding!	RMBKE2001@AOL.COM
3/9/2016 20:50:10	Judith Rebanocos	93 Deer Horn Dr Mt Royal NJ	I support this petition	Judith.rebanocos @comcast.net
3/9/2016 20:50:30	Judith Rebanocos	93 Deer Horn Dr Mt Royal NJ		Judith.rebanocos @comcast.net
3/9/2016 20:50:35	Judith Rebanocos	93 Deer Horn Dr Mt Royal NJ		Judyberns@yahoo.com
3/9/2016 20:52:40	Bernard Rebanocos	93 deer horn drive. My. Royal nj		juveel@yahoo.com
3/9/2016 20:54:33	Juvil ESPINOLA	131 Evergreen Ct		woweet1220@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 11:38:50	Maureen Apat-Maningo	149 Dominion Dr., Mount Royal NJ 08061		jininni@comcast.net
3/10/2016 11:56:30	Regina Ninni	36 Shute Farm Lane, Clarksboro NJ 08020		mninni@comcast.net
3/10/2016 11:57:06	Michael Ninni	36 Shute Farm Lane, Clarksboro NJ 08020		Ljrosen918@hotmail.com
3/10/2016 12:00:58	Lisa Rosen	51 brown terrace. Clarksboro nj		Bridget.kaelin@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 12:01:26	Timothy Brown	171 Cedar Rd, Mickleton , NJ08056		Indrani609@gmail.com
3/10/2016 12:03:55	Indrani Hewsen-Luhigo	419 Concetta Dr		bobfaulkner58@comcast.net
3/10/2016 12:16:40	Robert Faulkner	226 Spruce Trail, Woolwich, NJ 08085	Please fund these schools properly.	Coachburke14@icloud.com
3/10/2016 12:16:44	Eric Hallman	163 prairie vie lane Mickleton no		Shelleys68@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 12:18:30	Brendan Burke	87 Sunset Dr. Mt. Royal NJ 08061		belthyfoley@comcast.net
3/10/2016 12:29:44	Dawn Hallman	163 prairie view lane, Mickleton		newjerseygang@gmail.com
3/10/2016 12:48:48	Shelley franz	15 east cohawkin rd clarksboro nj 08020		Timpentz@gmail.com
3/10/2016 13:01:12	Beth Foley	559 Partridge Ct Mickleton NJ 08056		jenniferlynnbriggs@gmail.com
3/10/2016 13:05:37	Daniella Murphy	152 Dominion Dr		Jawolfie@comcast.net
3/10/2016 13:13:21	Tim Pentz	264 Barney hawkin rd mickleton nj 08056		dmbott@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 13:16:42	Jennifer Briggs	148 Acorn Drive		Kbm722@aol.com
3/10/2016 13:17:15	Amanda Kennedy	213 Waterbury Ct, Mount Royal, NJ 08061		Kbm722@aol.com
3/10/2016 13:25:02	Jennifer Wolfinger	154 Tradewinds Drive		Melissablacklaw@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 13:47:22	Rich Young	731 Farmhouse Road	Fait	Walterbailey014@comcast.net
3/10/2016 13:50:31	Denise Bott	135 Patrick dr Woolwich NJ 08085		nevius20@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 13:51:47	Krista bender	228 Smallwood drive		monastel@comcast.net
3/10/2016 13:52:06	Andrew bender	228 Smallwood drive		apps106@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 13:55:35	Melissa Law	106 Juniper Ln woolwich		jamesmatteo@gmail.com
3/10/2016 13:57:11	Walt Bailey	14 linden st		dmpurvenas.hayes@gmail.com
3/10/2016 14:03:45	William Nevius	118 Tammy Lane, Mickleton, NJ 08056		
3/10/2016 14:04:55	Lina Monasterial	131 Oakridge Drive Mount Royal, NJ 08061		
3/10/2016 14:13:03	Tricia Appelbaum	106 Bunker Hill Dr Woolwich Township NJ 08085		
3/10/2016 14:19:00	James Matteo	4 Still Run Drive Mickleton NJ 08056		
3/10/2016 14:32:15	Desiree Purvenas-Hayes	757 Ratfling Run Road Mickleton NJ 08056		
3/10/2016 15:23:49	Lauta Reynolds	11 Styessant Drive	Please properly fund all of our schools. It's time to reassess the fair funding laws.	
3/10/2016 15:25:09	Deb Kelley	103 Sarah Dr Mickleton NJ 08056	Kingsway should be considered a higher percentage. We are growing at an astounding rate.	Debkelley1928@gmail.com
3/10/2016 15:40:40	Vincent Corabi	153 Windsor Way		vcorabi@gmail.com

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Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
3/10/2016 16:04:41	Beth Foley	559 Partridge Ct Mickleton NJ 08056		bethfoley@comcast.net
3/10/2016 16:21:01	George Zimm	371 Kings Hwy. Mickleton NJ		
3/10/2016 16:26:51	Patricia Volpe	143 Sunset Dr Mt Royal, NJ		Triciamg72@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 16:49:30	Robbisse Sambucci	126 Sambar Lane Mt Royal NJ 08061		
3/10/2016 16:50:14	Gregory Sambucci	126 Sambar Lane Mt Royal NJ 08061		
3/10/2016 17:52:12	Steven LaRocca	137 Sunset Drive Mt. Royal, NJ	Please help to fund ours schools	34steven34@gmail.com
3/10/2016 18:20:35	Edward	DeStefano	Fairly fund our schools	Eadestef@gmail.com
3/10/2016 18:24:23	Carmen Marrero	242 Bartlett Drive, Mickleton NJ 08056	Give our schools the proper funding. Raising our property taxes to make up for the State's lack of appropriate funding is not fair.	rojmar@aol.com
3/10/2016 18:24:39	Carmen Marrero	242 Bartlett Drive, Mickleton NJ 08056	Give our schools the proper funding. Raising our property taxes to make up for the State's lack of appropriate funding is not fair.	rojmar@aol.com
3/10/2016 18:46:24	Kristie	LaRocca	137 Sunset Dr Mt Royal NJ	Kristie718@gmail.com
3/10/2016 18:47:15	Jodi Fearon	82 Harmony Road, Mickleton	It's time to address the problem! It's a major issue and our kids pay the price!	Judithfearon@gmail.com
3/10/2016 18:56:34	Michael Gibbs	402 Megan Drive Mickleton, NJ 08056		kturban@comcast.net
3/10/2016 18:56:36	Kevin Urban	120 Sunset Drive	Please fund us properly and give our students a fair shot.	
3/10/2016 18:59:55	James Mueller	291 Lea Court		
3/10/2016 19:00:28	Christine Wolosin	545 Morgan Drive Mickleton NJ 08056		Toonice@comcast.net
3/10/2016 19:11:44	Denise Cinousis	85 Deer Horn Drive Mount Royal NJ 08061		Deniselapps@hotmail.com
3/10/2016 19:39:49	Kristen Preziosi	110 Brynwood Ct Mickleton		
3/10/2016 19:53:27	Jeremy Tyers	109 Sunset Dr Mount Royal, NJ 08061		
3/10/2016 19:53:46	Jeremy Tyers	109 Sunset Dr Mount Royal, NJ 08061		
3/10/2016 20:00:35	Patti Pedrick	188 Maple Hill Dr., Woolwich Twp, NJ 08085		plabby@comcast.net
3/10/2016 20:35:13	Stephanie cosentino	319 carriage drive mount royal		
3/10/2016 20:58:46	Christine Leipert	300 W Crossing Drive, Mount Royal, nj		Christine.leipert@gmail.com
3/10/2016 21:59:14	Rhode Redulla	154 Dominion Drive, Mount Royal, NJ	Please consider the increase in student population within the last five years which has a huge impact on the school district's needs.	rhodaredulla@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 22:01:01	William Soroka	42 Hancock Street; Swedesboro, NJ 08085		soroka2@comcast.net
3/10/2016 22:01:24	Martin Webb	568 Partridge CT, Mickleton, NJ 08056	All schools in the state should be funded evenly X amount per pupil.	martin.webb@gmail.com
3/11/2016 7:01:32	Cathy Davis	410 Greenwich St. Mickleton	Please fund East Greenwich and Kingsway district fairly.	cmdavis60@comcast.net
3/11/2016 9:37:09	Gregory Miller	69 Weatherwane Drive, Mt Royal 08061	Disgrace but then again so is Gov Christie.	Airmil38@comcast.net
3/11/2016 11:45:36	Jessica Laborde	537 Hereford Lane, Mickleton, NJ 08056	For goodness sakes, do the right thing!	pajessica@yahoo.com
3/11/2016 12:21:31	Irene Savidge	Mickleton New Jersey		
3/11/2016 12:22:14	Edward Savidge	Mickleton New Jersey		
3/11/2016 18:19:02	Stacey Clark	124 Robert Botto Way Clarksboro NJ, 08020		stace106@hotmail.com
3/11/2016 18:19:09	Stacey Clark	124 Robert Botto Way Clarksboro NJ, 08020		stace106@hotmail.com
3/12/2016 19:17:12	Sylvia Penamante	176 Windsor Way Mt. Royal, NJ		Sylviapenamante@gmail.com
3/12/2016 19:18:44	Brynda De Guzman	133 Acorn Drive Mt.,Royal,NJ 08061		
3/12/2016 19:20:01	Perry De Guzman	133 Acorn Drive Mt. Royal, NJ 08061		
3/12/2016 20:46:43	Donald Rambo	105 Brynwood Ct Mickleton, NJ 08056		Perrypauld@yahoo.com
3/14/2016 12:22:15	Cherie Davis	749 Farnhouse Rd, Mickleton, NJ 08056	We pay An Enormous amount and of Taxes, it's only fair to Fund the schools properly	dbobo31@hotmail.com
4/1/2016 13:54:03	Paul Ferla	43 Forage Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		Cedavis1069@comcast.net
4/10/2016 18:24:57	Dawn Taylor	215 Smallwood Drive		
4/18/2016 7:36:22	Annmarte Brown	818 Darius Drive		
4/18/2016 22:47:23	John Hedrick	247 Jennings Way, Mickleton NJ		ammbrown15@gmail.com

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
4/20/2016 6:41:50	Lisa Christopher	219 Bartlett Drive, Mickleton		Lchristopher05@gmail.com
4/20/2016 6:42:14	Anthony Christopher	219 Bartlett Drive, Mickleton		Acsurf@gmail.com
4/20/2016 10:33:56	Nicole Wallace	569 Partridge Ct		nicolepatriciawest@gmail.com
4/20/2016 20:54:54	Christina Kille	717 Farmhouse Rd mickleton NJ		
4/20/2016 20:55:56	Gary Kille	717 Farmhouse Rd mickleton NJ		Gkck@comcast.net
4/25/2016 22:01:04	Tracey Guinup	837 union road	it's a disgrace. it needs to be fixed	traceygnp@aol.com
11/16/2016 17:21:06	trevor lacy	6 colonial drive		raybax@comcast.net

05X

Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness Public Hearing

Thank you for this opportunity to represent the Quinton Township School District, which is located in rural Salem County.

Our district works diligently to deliver a comprehensive educational program for our students within the constraints of the budget. Every staff member wears numerous hats and we work together as one unit to ensure that students receive the targeted and differentiated instruction required to optimize academic, emotional and social growth.

The Quinton Township School District has been able to make great strides by optimizing our minimal amount of

resources (Discretionary expenses make a little less than three-percent of our budget) to ensure that our staff members and students are receiving the necessary tools.

Our district has applied for and received numerous grants to fill some of the already existing gaps. Over the past three years we have applied for and received several local grants, which are competitive and not guaranteed. The grant funds have enabled the district to hold a summer enrichment program for our most at-risk students to assist with the summer slide, increase our school district's security system, enhance our existing fine and performing arts offerings and provide after school and weekend activities for our middle school population.

With the allowable two-percent tax levy cap increase of approximately \$48,000 Quinton Township already faces budget cuts on a yearly basis and strives to maintain current programming.

Having full knowledge of the budgetary constraints, I, just as many other employees who serve in the Quinton Township School District, wear many hats: staff evaluations, PARCC coordinator (3-8), curriculum coordinator, crossing guard, grant writer, professional development coordinator, serve on the DEAC, SCIP, SIT, School Safety and Crisis Teams, District 504 Coordinator, etc.

We are doing the best that we can to make the most of the funds that district is afforded each year. Our first round of PARCC scores proved to be among the highest across the state with regard to the

Demographic Factor Group A and data to support this statement is included within your packets. Our district scores proved to be in alignment, if not higher than, other school districts in higher DFGs around the state. The point that I want to make is that we are making progress and want to continue to do so.

If the Fairness Formula proposed by Governor Christie were to come to fruition our district would lose approximately 1.2 million dollars in state aid. Such a drastic cut would cause devastation to our existing program. We operate with minimal personnel and resources as it is and I am here today to support adequate school funding to ensure that the students of Quinton Township, as well as other underfunded districts around our state, are treated fairly and have the same opportunities as others. Thank you.

Quinton Township Board of Education



**2016-2017 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 28, 2016**

Mission Statement



We, the collective members of the Quinton Township School and its community, aspire to provide every student with access to equal educational opportunities.

In order to realize this mission, our teachers and staff pledge to serve as advocates who:

- *provide a caring, safe, nurturing environment.**
- *establish a challenging and diverse learning climate in which every student's needs are met, exceeded, and supported.**
- *embrace high expectations that all children can flourish as successful learners.**

As a result of our advocacy, we aspire to develop students who:

- *demonstrate advanced proficiency in accordance with the Core Curriculum Content Standards.**
- *are self-motivated life-long learners.**
- *understand the perspective of others despite their differences.**
- *exhibit mutual respect while collaborating to achieve a goal.**
- *are empowered learners who can thrive in an ever-changing global society.**

This mission is embodied in the philosophy that school is not just about children; it encompasses families, parents, community, stakeholders, society, the environment and the world.

Budget Goals



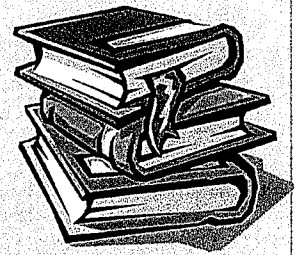
- Maintain status in Salem County as a **High Achieving School District**.
- Maintain a teaching staff that **provides effective coverage** of all mandated CCCS and CCSS.
- Maintain administrative staff to provide **continued support** for instructional improvement, student safety and a positive and productive learning environment.
- Maintain our paraprofessional staff to **meet Special Education, Basic Skills, and Early Childhood needs** in a cost effective manner.

Our Budget Supports...

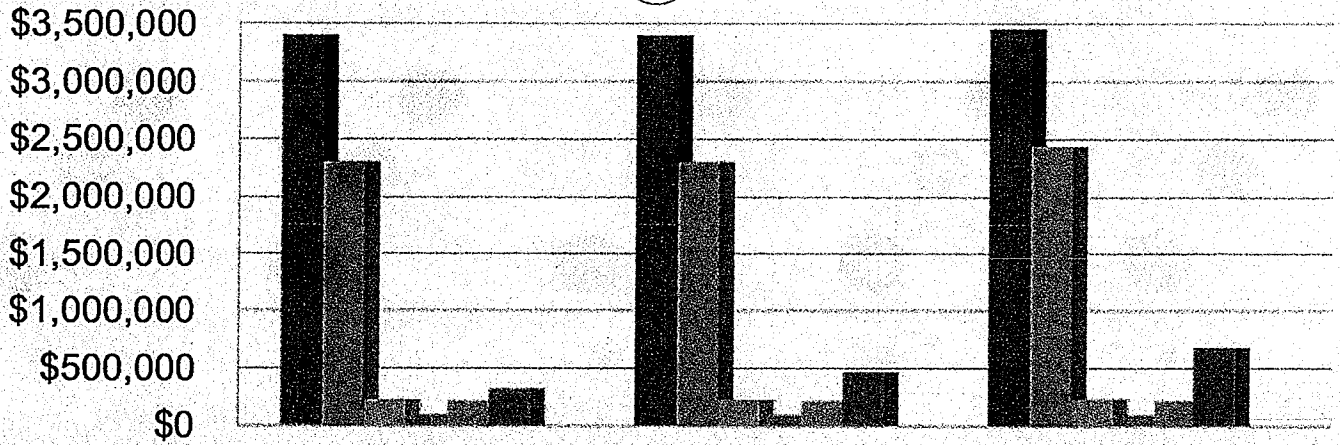


- **Staffing Levels & Programs Including**

- Full day Preschool and Kindergarten Programs
- Mandated Support Services (CST, I&RS, BSI, Counselor)
- Full Range of Special Area Programs including Art, Music, Spanish, Physical Education, Health (Gr 6-8) & Computers
- Continued Support of the Revised Teacher Evaluation System (AchieveNJ)
- Professional Development
- Reading Recovery Program
- After-School Support Programs
(Homework Center, Math Tutoring, Literacy Tutoring)
- Curriculum and Materials that are current & aligned with CCSS



Revenues for the Past 3 Years



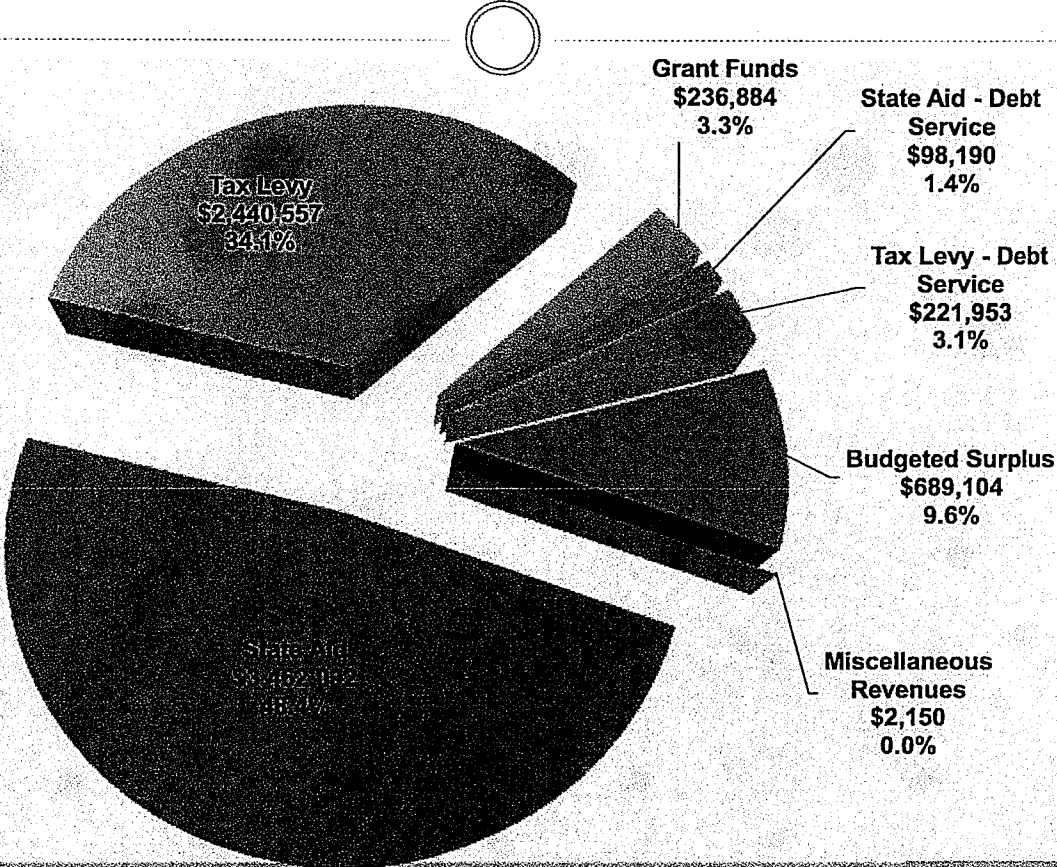
	14-15 budget	15-16 budget	16-17 budget
■ State Aid	\$3,406,510	\$3,400,194	\$3,462,092
■ Tax Levy	\$2,307,609	\$2,307,609	\$2,440,557
■ Grant Funds	\$231,536	\$224,714	\$236,884
■ State Aid-Debt	\$99,470	\$97,845	\$98,190
■ Tax Levy-Debt	\$220,343	\$219,768	\$221,953
■ Budgeted Surplus	\$327,217	\$470,185	\$689,104
■ Misc Revenue	\$2,150	\$2,150	\$2,150

7/4

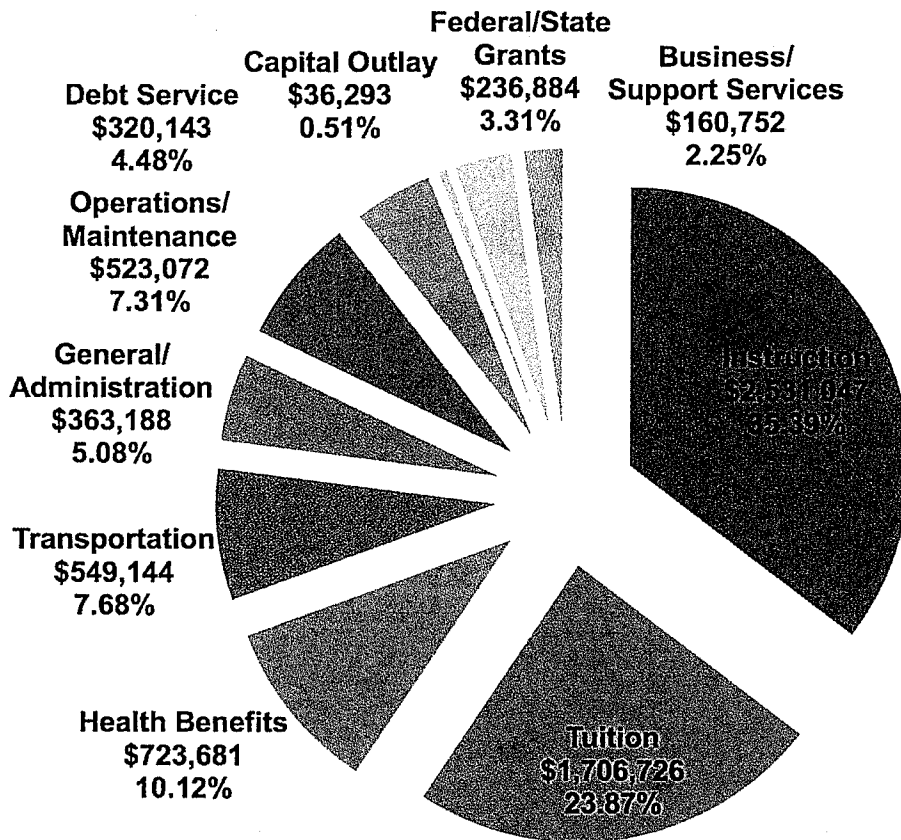
2016-2017 State Aid

	2015-16	2016-17	Inc/(Dec)
General Fund Aid	\$3,400,194	\$3,462,092	\$61,898
Special Revenue Aid	\$65,714	\$54,384	(\$11,330)
Debt Service Aid	\$97,845	\$98,190	\$345
Total State Aid	\$3,563,753	\$3,614,666	\$50,913
Assessment for Debt Service on SDA Funding	(\$36,143)	(\$36,143)	\$0
Grand Total Aid Payable	\$3,527,610	\$3,578,523	\$50,913
Total Increase in State Aid		\$50,913	0.02%

Where does the money come from?

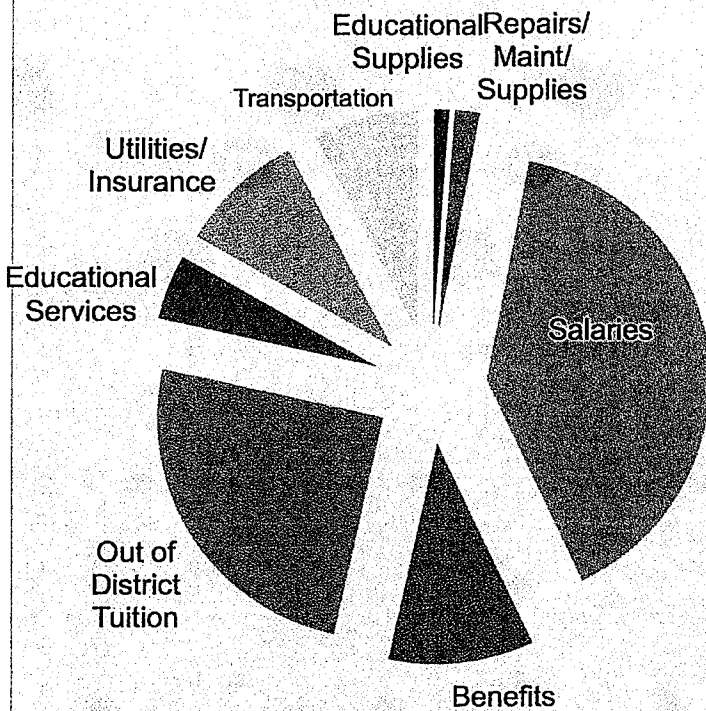


Where does all the money go?



Total District Net Budget \$7,150,930

Discretionary vs. Fixed Expenses



Discretionary Expenses:

Educational Supplies	\$ 80,187	1.12%
Repairs/Maint/Supplies	\$ 131,500	1.84%
Total Discretionary Expenses	\$ 211,687	2.96%

Fixed Expenses:

Salaries	\$2,858,175	39.97%
Benefits	\$ 753,061	10.53%
Out of District Tuition	\$1,793,226	25.08%
Educational Services	\$ 339,381	4.75%
Utilities/Insurance	\$ 651,256	9.11%
Transportation	\$ 544,144	7.61%
Total Fixed Expenses	\$6,939,243	97.04%

Total 2016-2017 Budget \$7,150,930

Budget Constraints



- **Salem High School Tuition \$1,004,543.**
- **Salem County Vo Tech Tuition \$271,521.**
- **Out-of District Special Education Costs \$430,662.**
- **Transportation Costs.**
- **Contracted Health Benefit and Prescription Cost Increases.**
- **Assessment for Debt Service on SDA Funding**

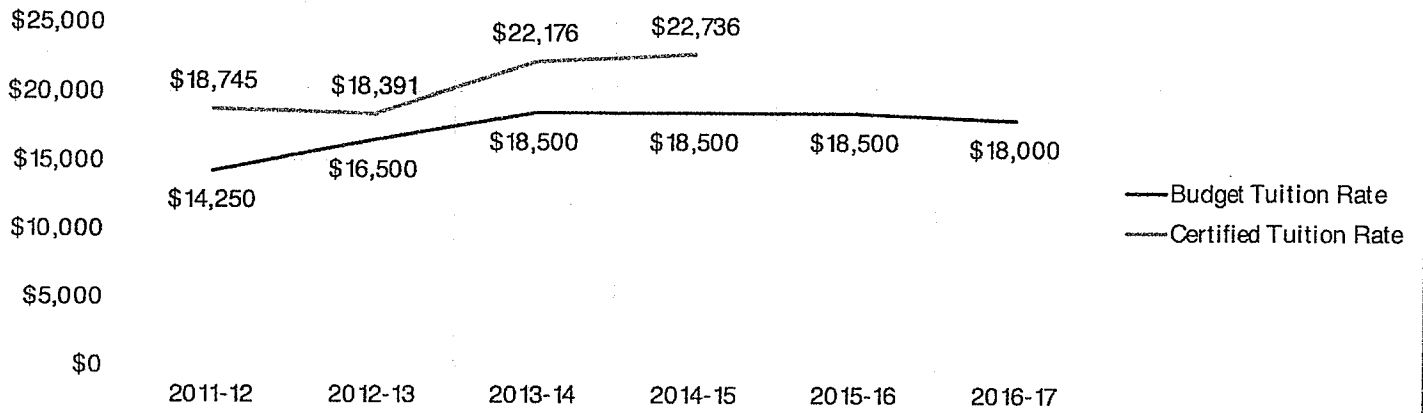
Tuition Analysis

Salem Tuition:	2015-16	2016-17	Difference Inc/(Dec)
Full Time	\$629,000	\$828,000	\$199,000
Shared Time	\$0	\$9,000	\$9,000
Tuition Adjustment	(\$10,134)	\$84,333	\$94,467
Resource Room	<u>\$25,400</u>	<u>\$83,210</u>	<u>\$57,810</u>
Salem Tuition Total	\$644,266	\$1,004,543	\$360,277
Estimated # Students	34	46.5	12.5
Tuition Rate per Student	\$18,500	\$18,000	(\$500)
Resource Room Hours	1,000	3,276	2,276
Resource Room Rate	\$25.40	\$25.40	\$0

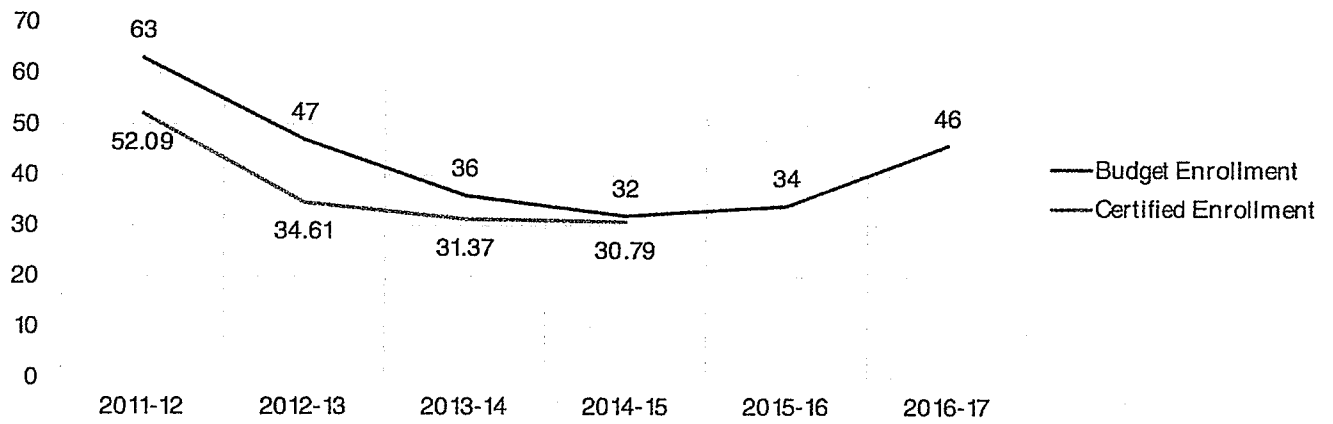
Tuition Analysis Cont'd

Vo Tech Tuition:	2015-16	2016-17	Difference Inc/(Dec)
Resident Students	\$237,500	\$239,825	\$2,325
Tuition Adjustment	<u>\$28,886</u>	<u>\$31,696</u>	<u>\$2,810</u>
Vo Tech Tuition Total	\$266,386	\$271,521	\$5,135
Estimated # Students	95	90.5	(4.5)
Tuition Rate per Student	\$2,500	\$2,650	\$150
Out Of District Special Education Tuition:	2015-16	2016-17	Difference Inc/(Dec)
Full Time Students	\$382,901	\$430,662	\$47,761
Estimated # Students	11	13	2

Salem Tuition Analysis

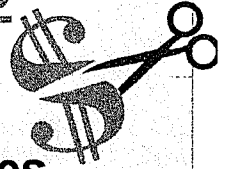


Salem Enrollment Analysis



82x

Measures to DECREASE Tax Rate



- **Use of Grants to Fully or Partially Fund Salaries**

- One Early Childhood Teacher (PK)(PSEA - \$54,384)
- 1Part-time Basic Skills Teacher (NCLB - \$28,750)
- Four Basic Skills Instructional Aides (NCLB - \$48,000)

Total \$131,134 (6.91 cents savings)

- **Use of Grants to Fund Professional Development Costs and Substitute Fees**

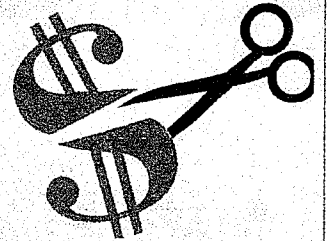
- In-District Workshops (NCLB - \$13,000)

Total \$13,000 (0.69 cents savings)

Measures to DECREASE Tax Rate Cont'd



- **\$689,104 from Surplus to offset taxes**
(36.31 cents savings)
- **\$221,060 from Choice Program Aid**
(11.65 cents savings)
- **Shared Services**
 - Professional Development
 - Technology Services & Support
 - Transportation
 - Joint Purchasing (Supplies, Paper, etc)
 - Participate in E-Rate, ACT, ACES, ERIC South, State Health Insurance



Total Tax Savings of more than 55.56 Cents

Tax Levy

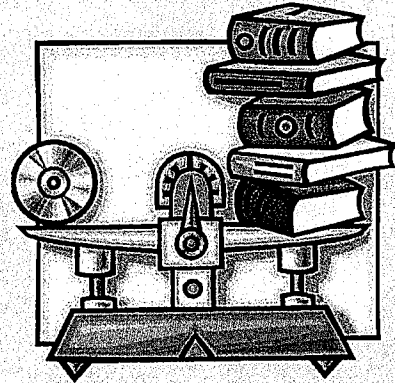


- **Total Tax Levy Increase**

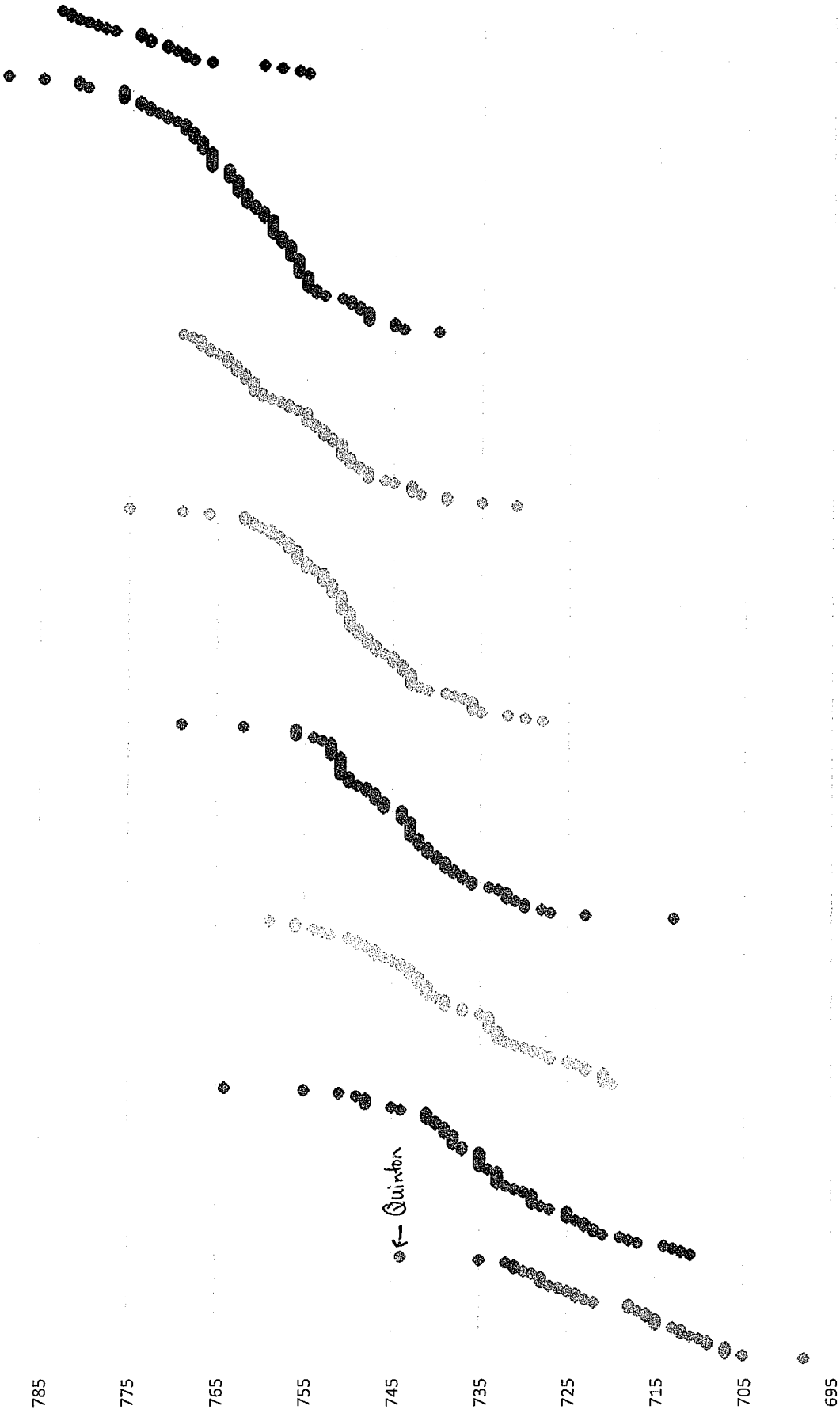
(including debt service)

0.034 Cents over the 2015-2016 budget, an average increase of \$57.66 per household (\$161,389) or **\$.16 per day**

(**0.017¢** increase for July to December 2015 and then **0.017¢** increase for January to June 2016.)



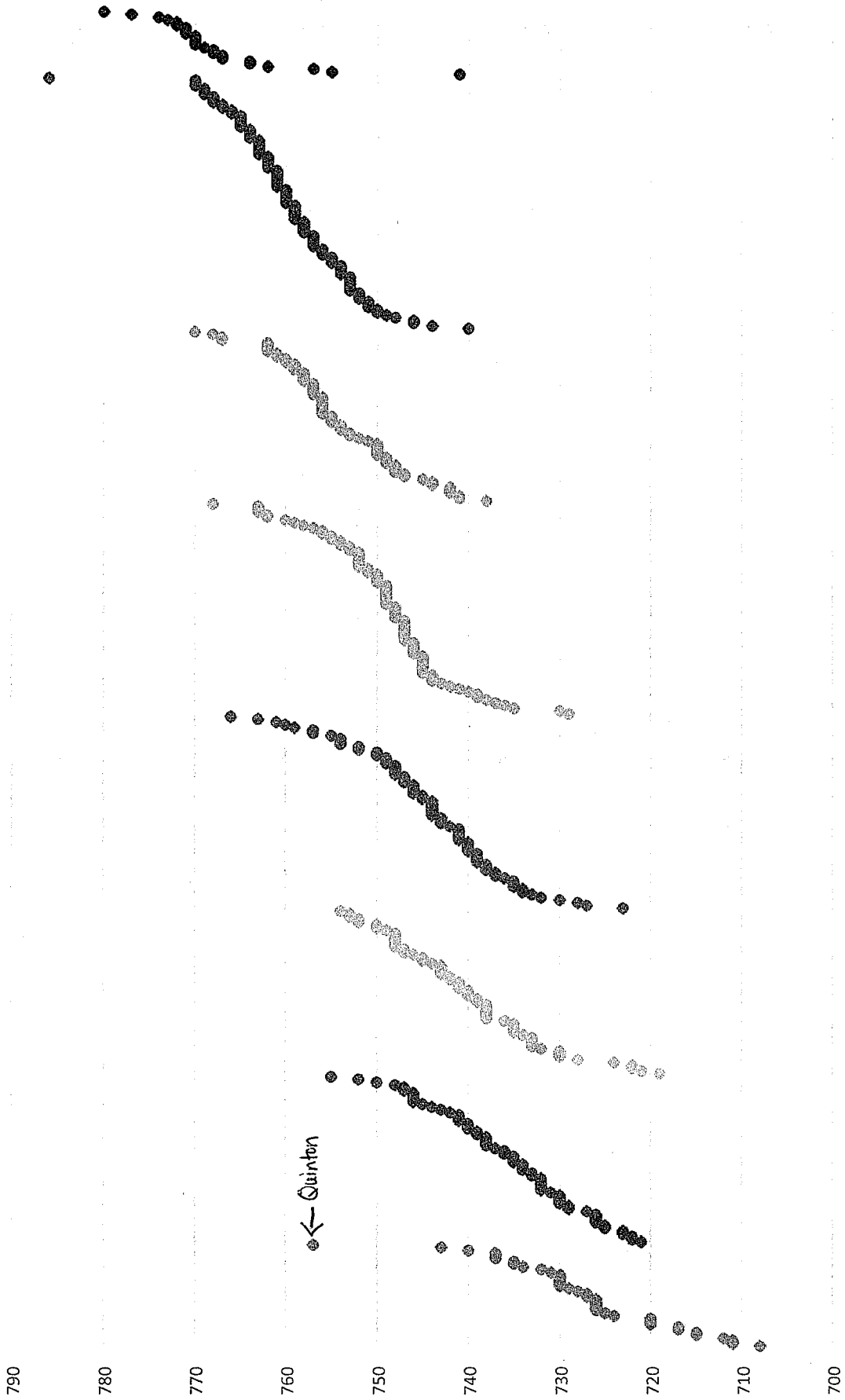
LA - Grade 3



• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

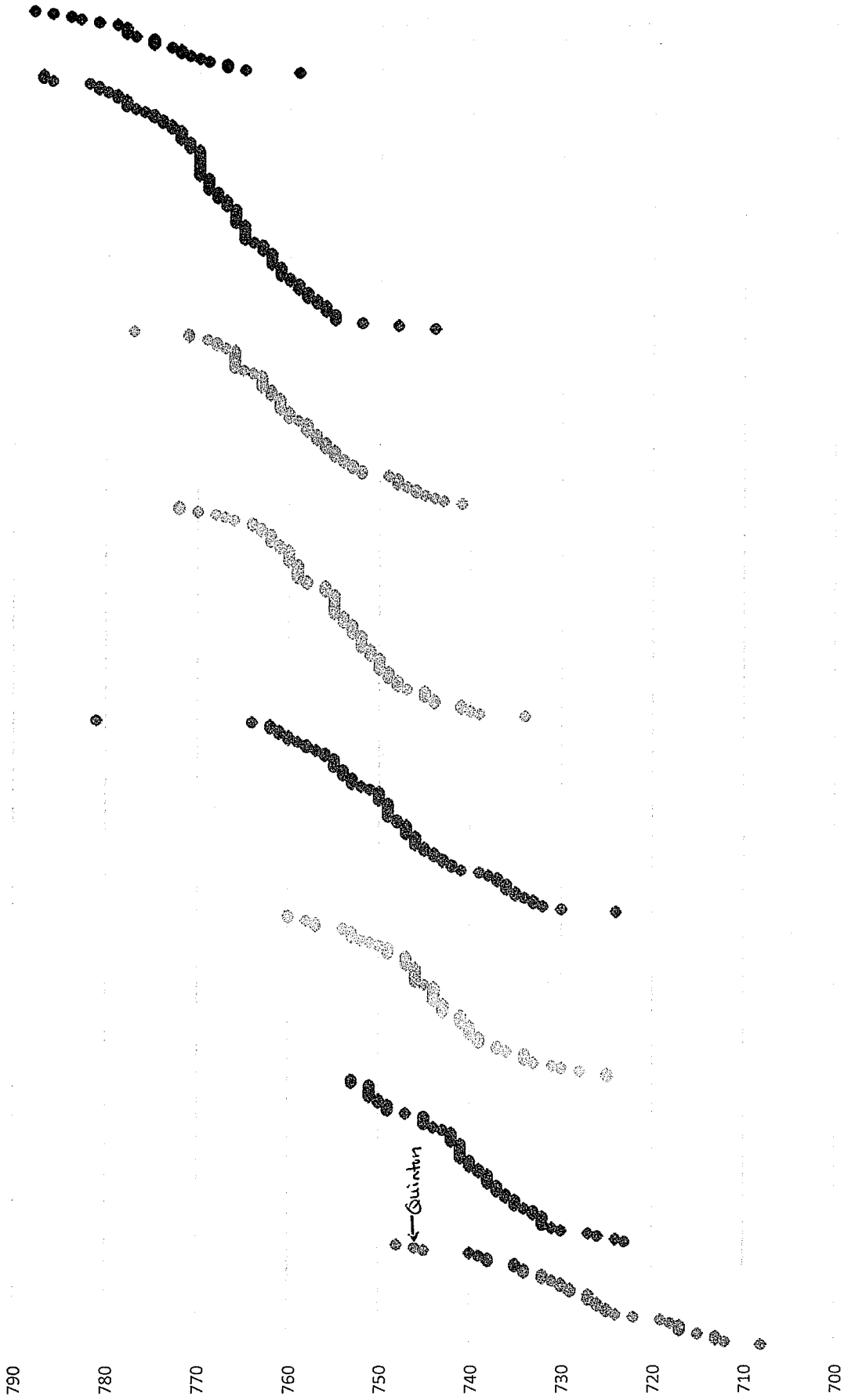
864

Math - Grade 3



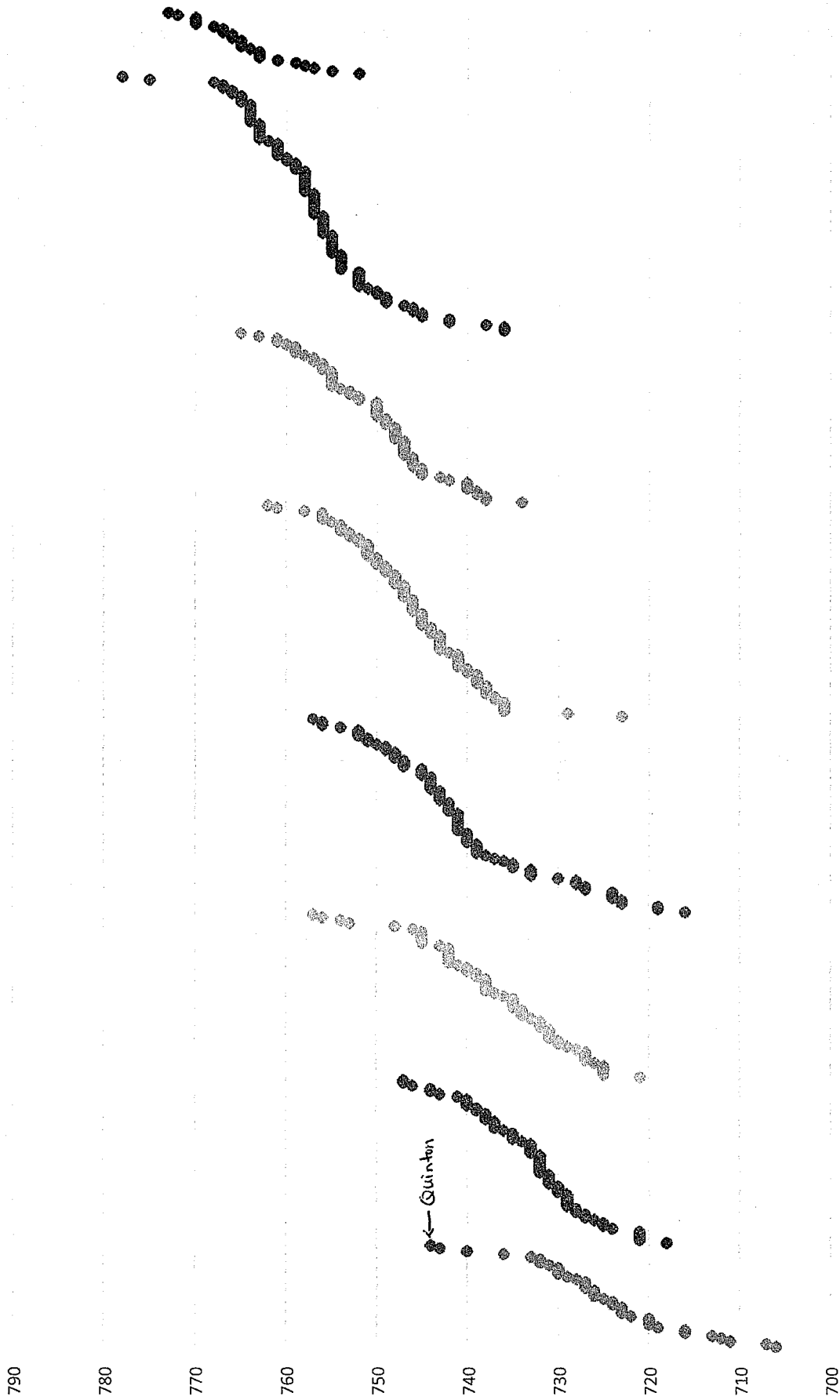
• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

LA - Grade 4



• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

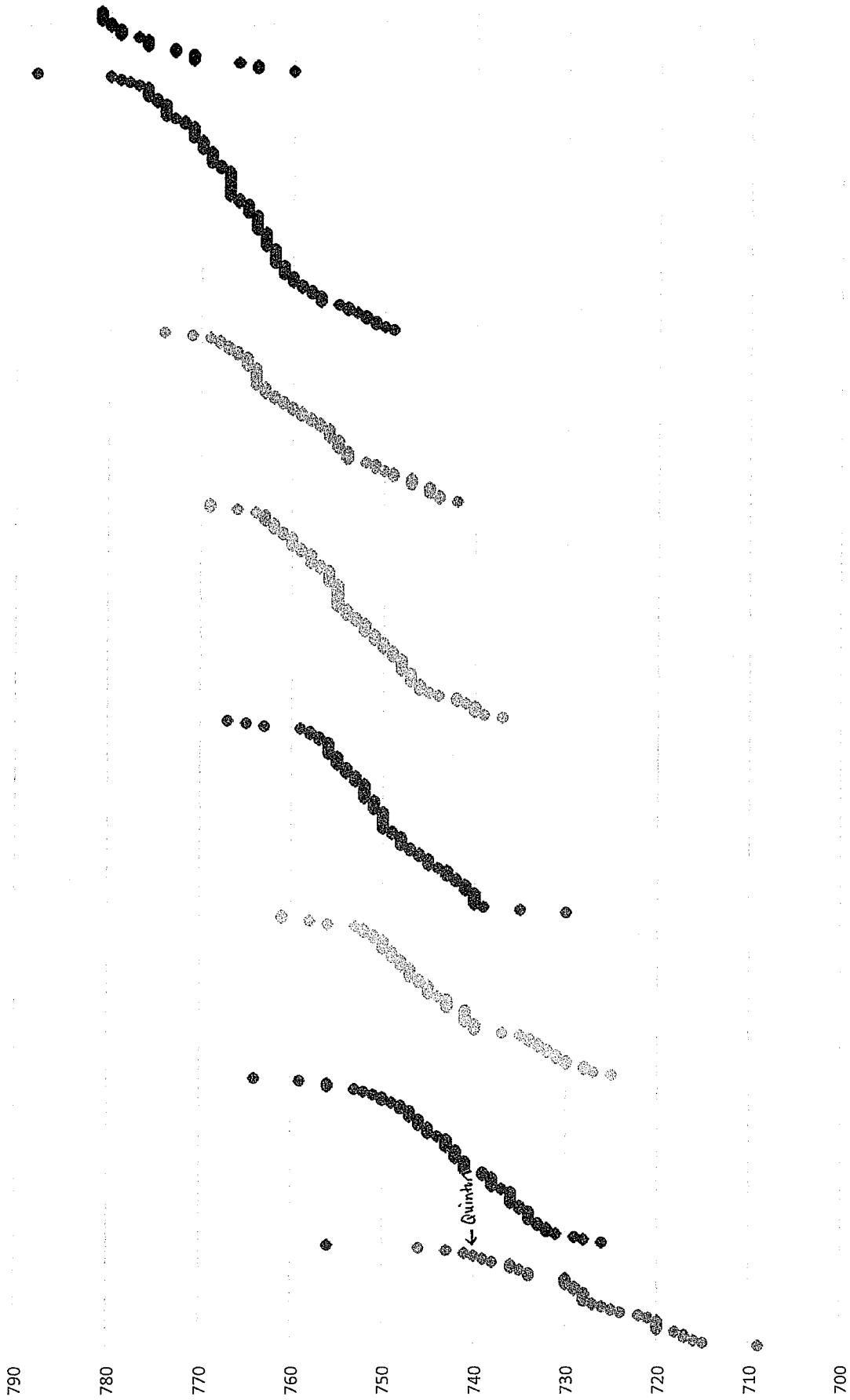
Math - Grade 4



← Quinton

894

LA - Grade 5



● A ● B ● CD ● DE ● FG ● GH ● I ● J

Math - Grade 5

790

780

770

760

750

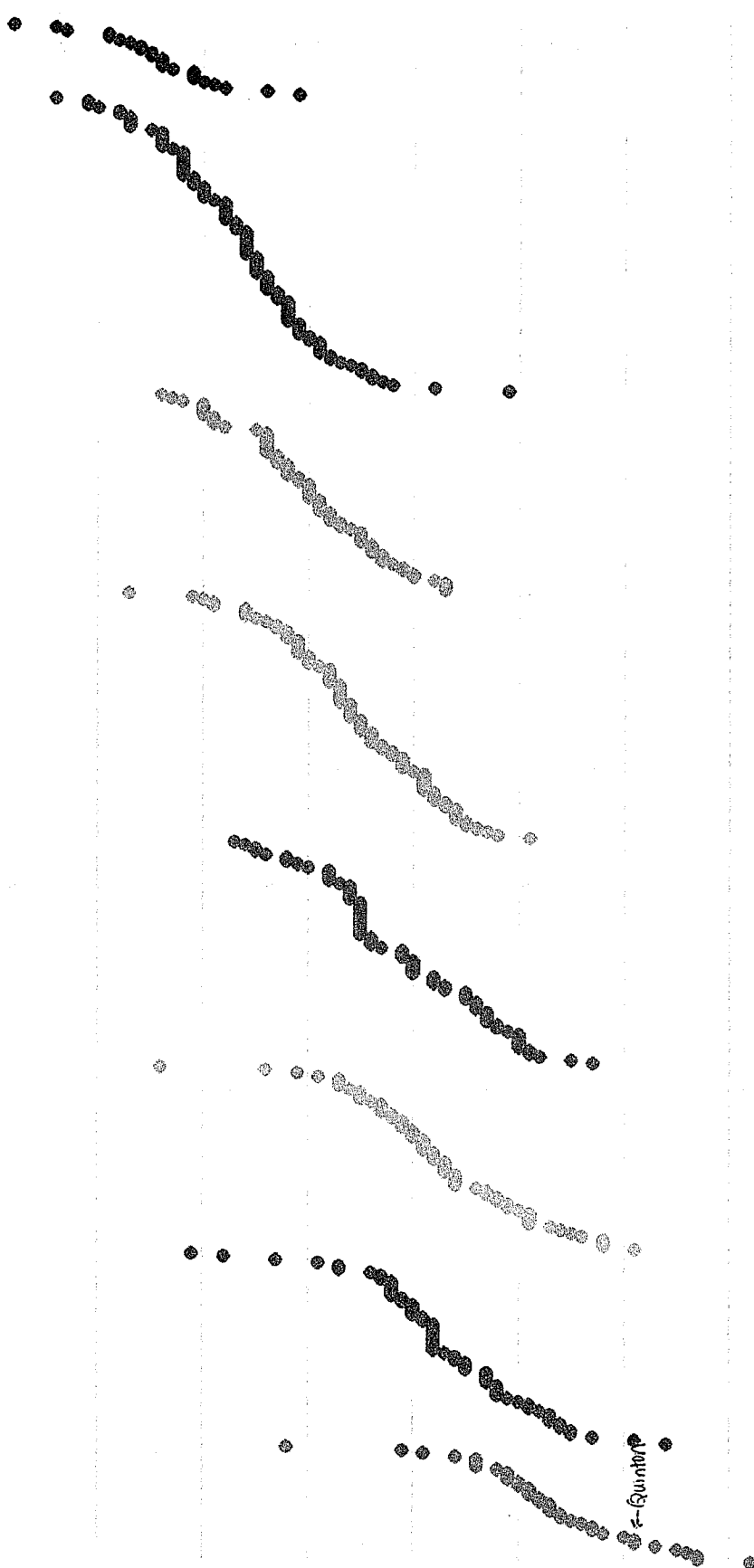
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720

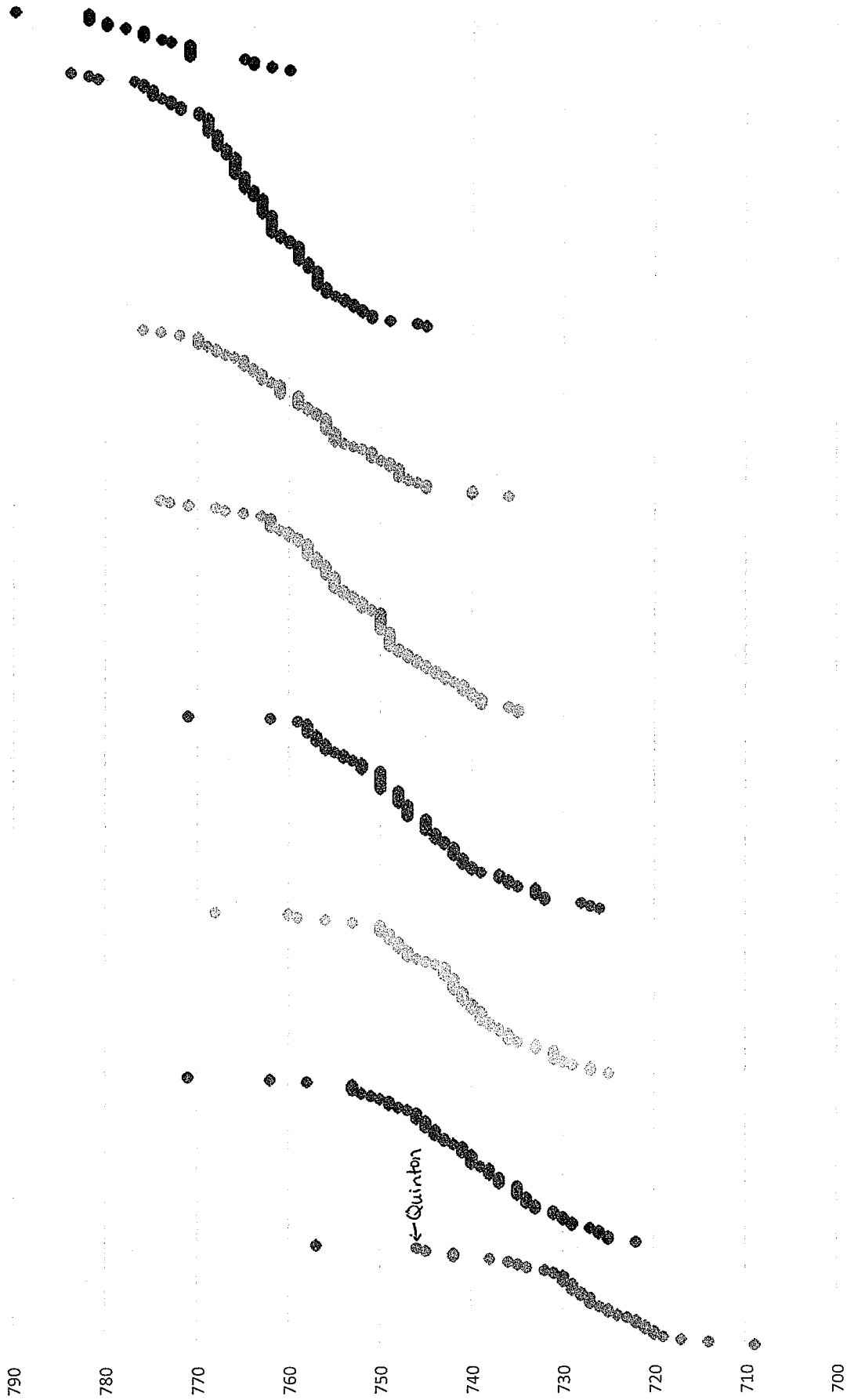
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700



• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

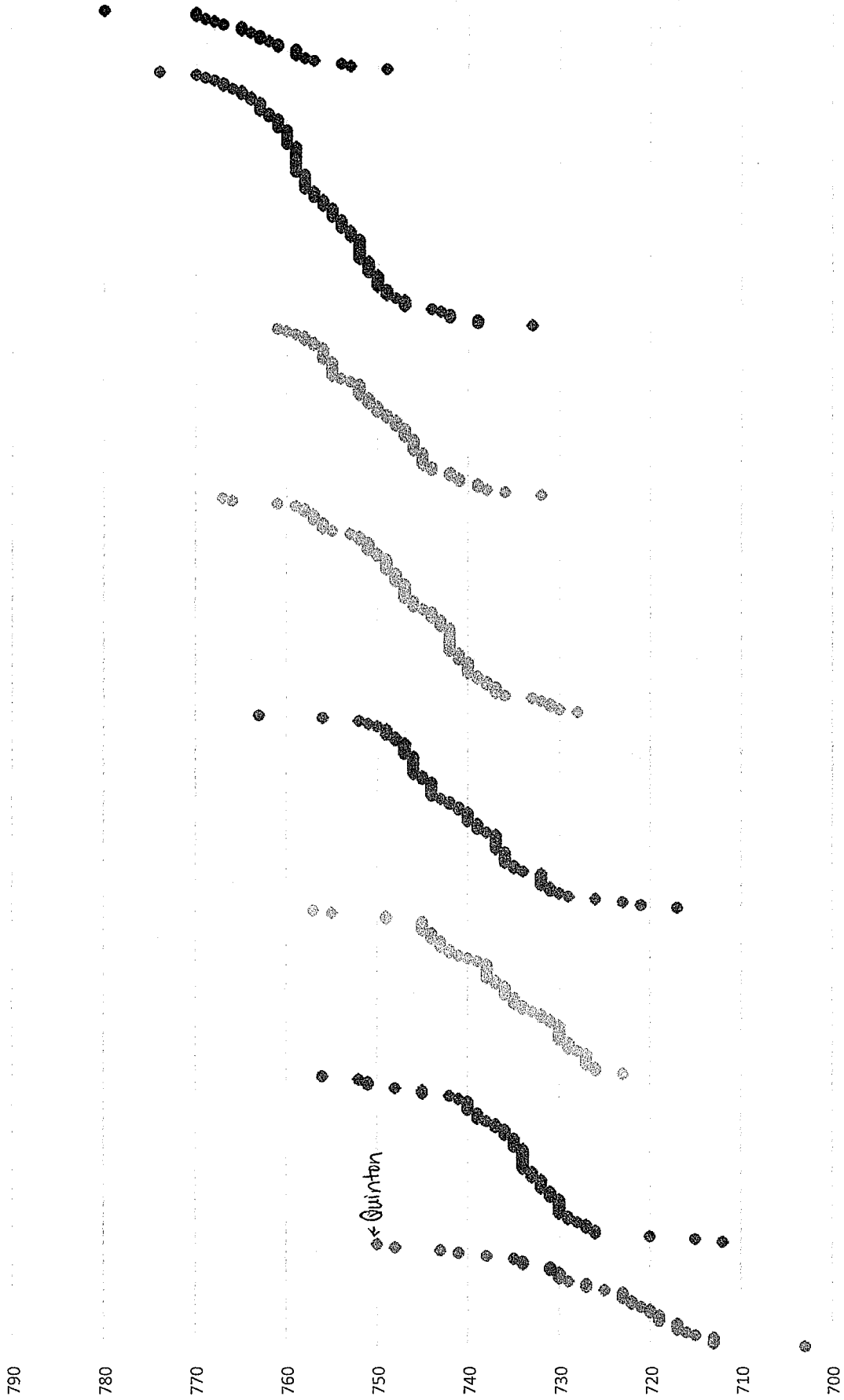
LA - Grade 6



• A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J

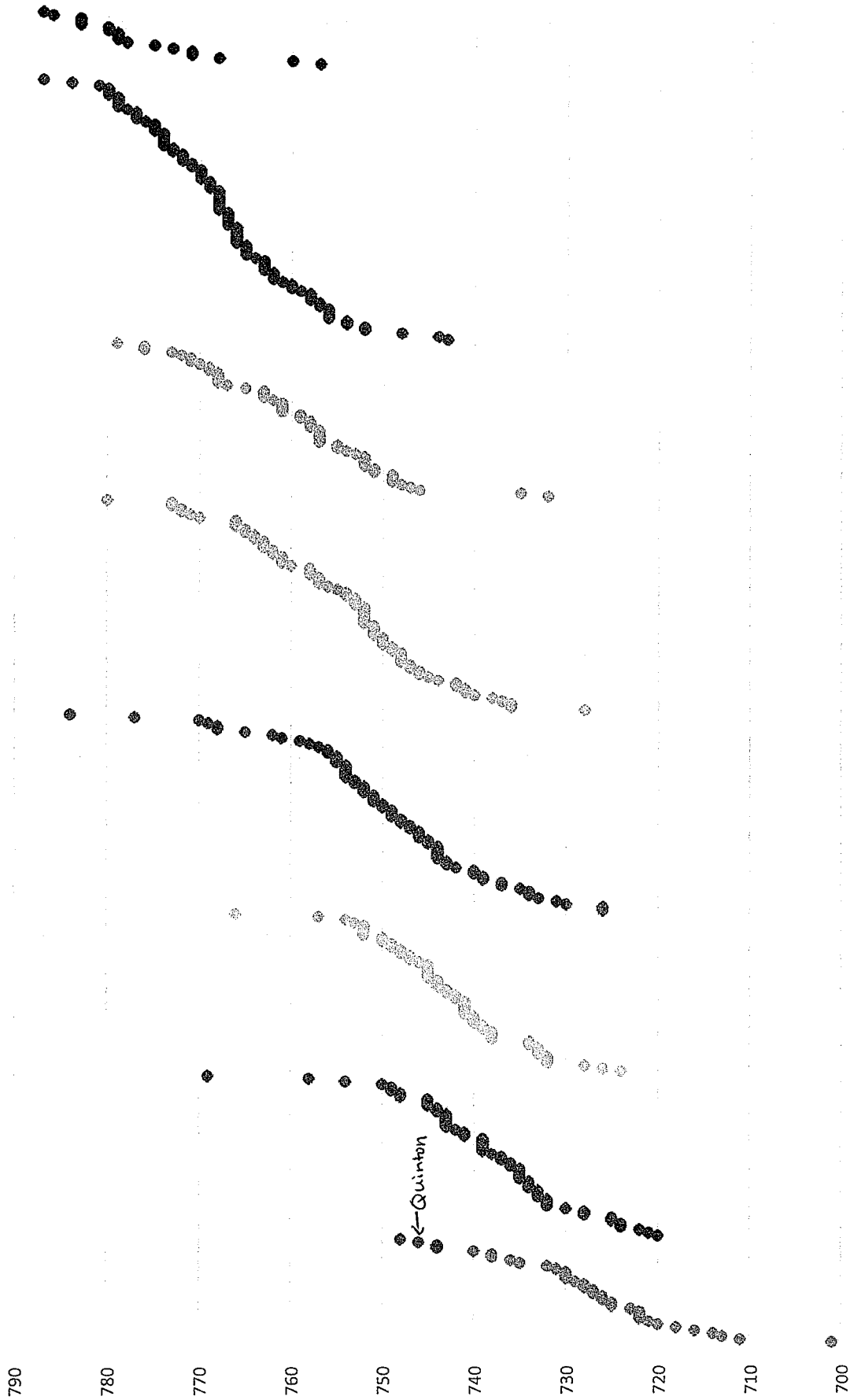
924

Math - Grade 6



• A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J

LA - Grade 7



• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

Math - Grade 7

790

780

770

760

750

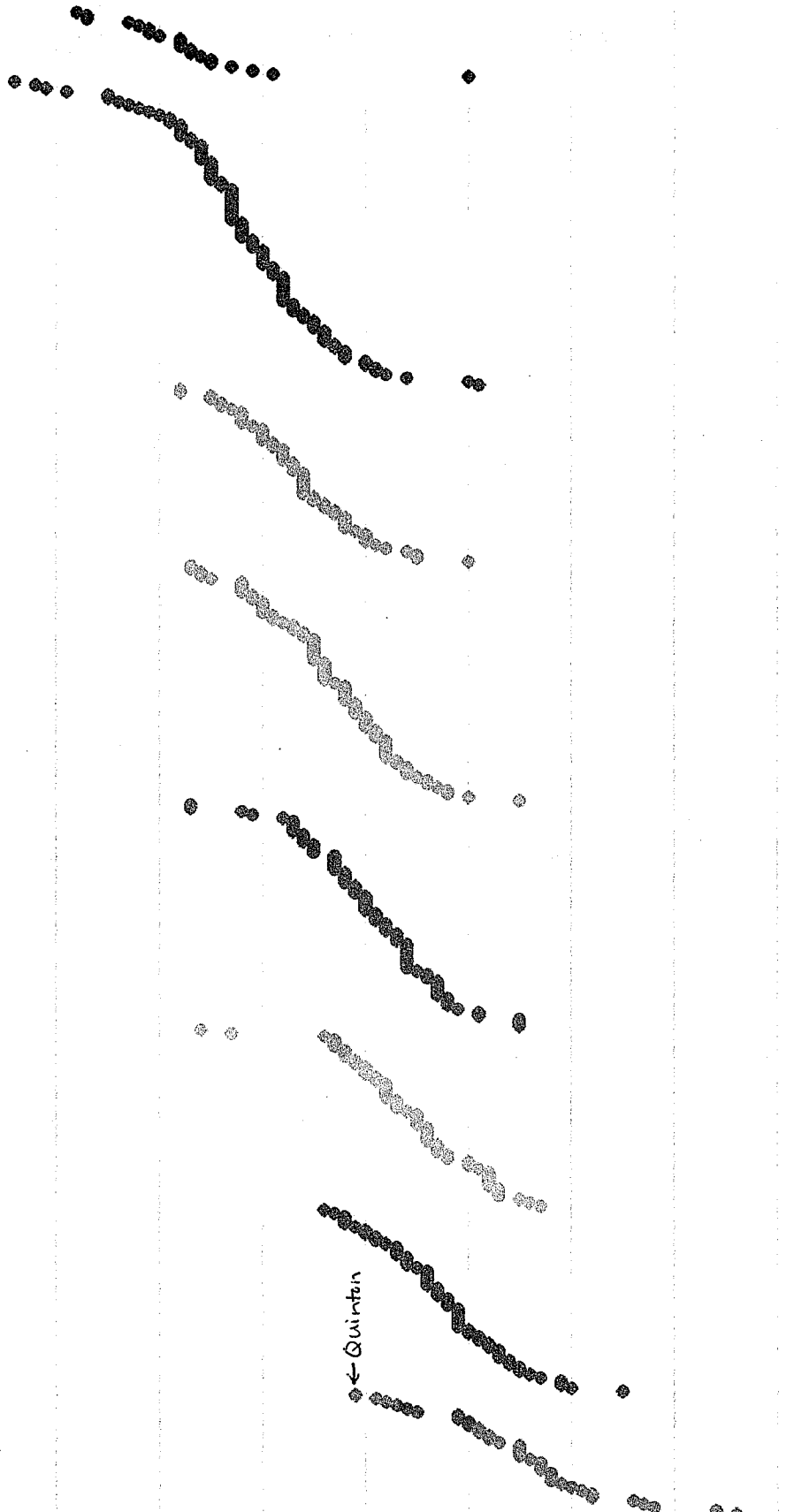
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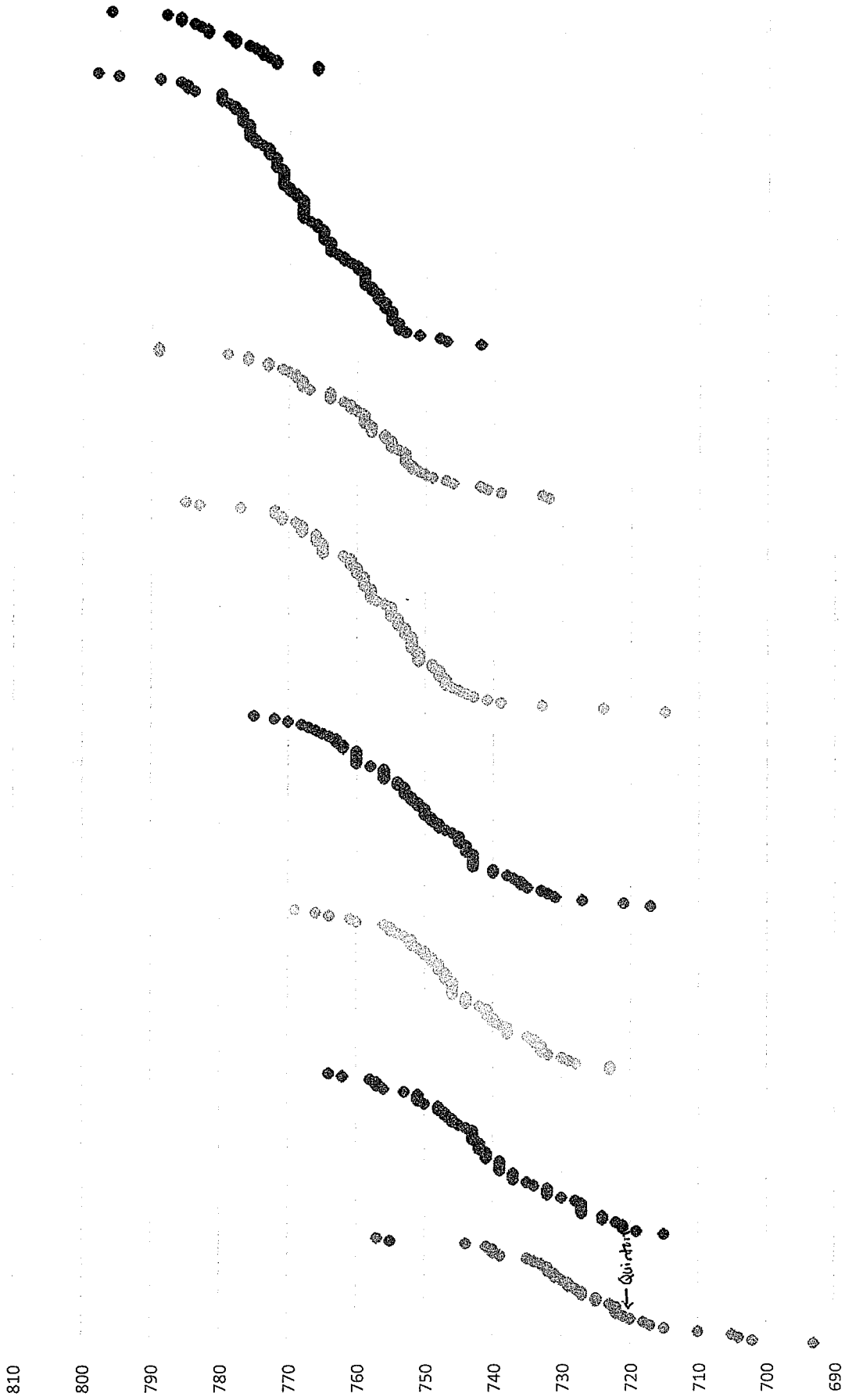
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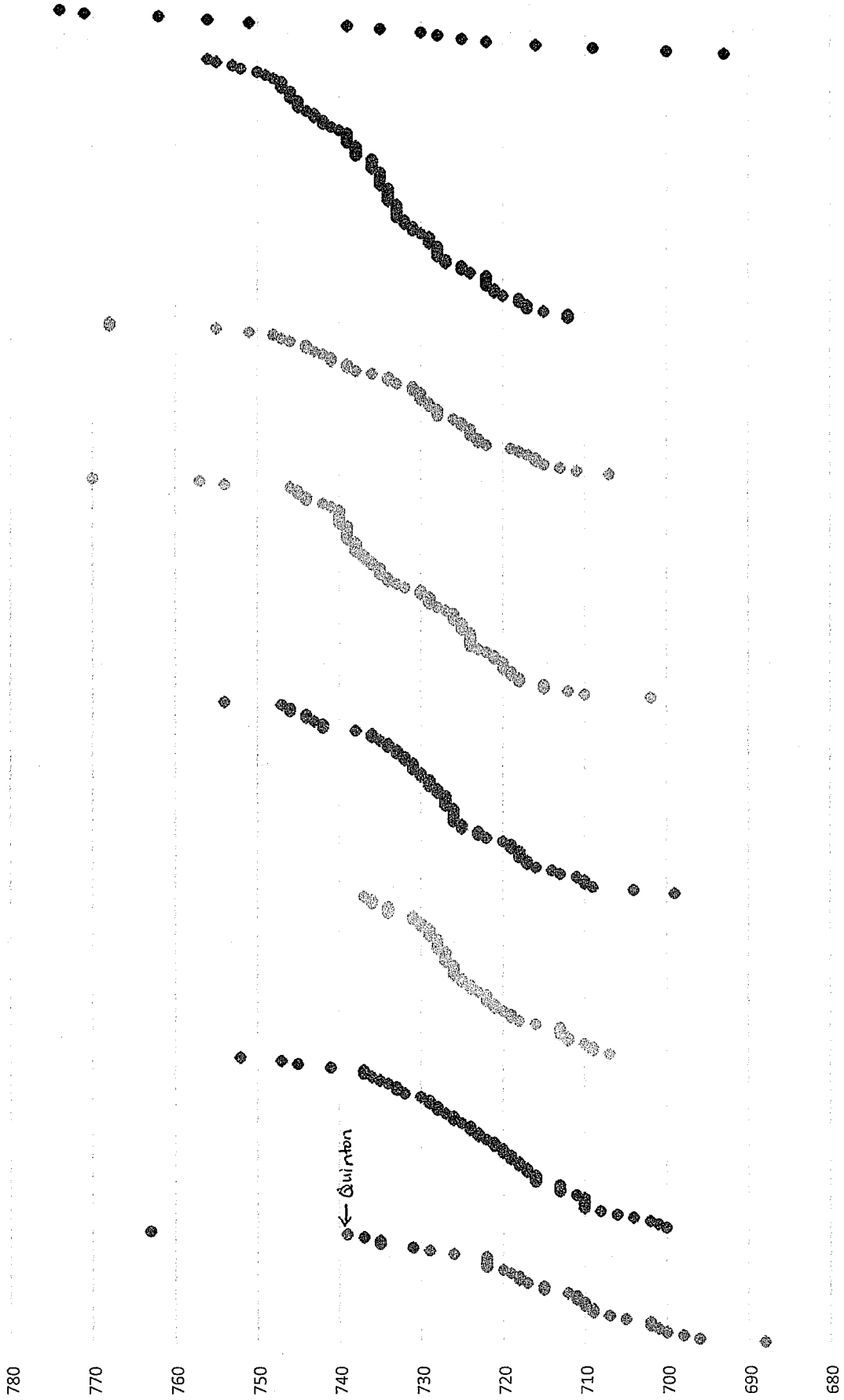
• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

LA - Grade 8



• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

Math - Grade 8



974

• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

Quinton Township School District 2016-2017 Budget in Review

Total General Fund Budget = \$6,593,903 (\$6.5 Million Budget)

Local Tax Levy = \$2,440,557 (\$2.4 Million)

General Fund Budget Increase -	\$ 413,765	
Special Revenue Fund Budget Decrease -	(\$ 84,381)	
Debt Service Fund Budget Increase -	<u>\$ 2,530</u>	
Grand Total Budget Increase -	\$ 331,914	4.87%

State Aid Fund 10 Increase -	\$ 61,898	
State Aid Fund 20 Decrease -	<u>(\$ 11,330)</u>	
State Aid Increase-	\$ 50,568	

State Aid Fund 40 Increase-	\$ 345	
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Overall increase in Aid from the State	\$ 50,913	
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Cost in Assessment for Debt Service on SDA Funding	\$36,143	stayed the same
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Increase in Ratables - \$174,039 (0.09%)

Budgeted Fund Balance - \$689,104
(\$635,178 required per the audit to relieve taxes)

Surplus is \$225,000

Banked Cap Adjustment applied	\$74,175	
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Majority of Budget Includes:
**Salaries, Tuition, Health Benefits, and
Transportation**

Tax Levy Required (Minimum Tax Levy)	-	\$2,307,609
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Tax Rate	-	\$1.37 per \$100		.034¢ increase
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**Fair Funding Hearing
Kingsway Regional High School
January 27, 2017**

**Luanne J. Hughes
476 Fislerville Road, South Harrison Township, NJ 08062
fchsnutritionchick@gmail.com
609-868-5309**

Good afternoon.

My name is Luanne Hughes. I live in South Harrison Township and I have 3 children in the Kingsway Regional School District.

We've heard and read extensive information about the impact of the current funding situation in my school district – reduced staffing, limited programming, and so forth. I'd like to offer a more personal perspective on how the current state of funding affects my children.

I previously reached out to Senator Sweeney, Assemblyman Taliaferro and Assemblyman Burzichelli to express my support for FAIR FUNDING. Their response indicated that they're investigating alternative formulas... alternatives that will take years to implement. With all due respect, my children don't have that many years to wait for school funding reform. We need to change the situation now. You can get the ball rolling and do the right thing by applying the formula and funding MY school – Kingsway Regional – at its fair level while you investigate alternatives and new formulas.

My youngest son Zachary is a seventh grader. He has dyslexia. Recently, Zachary's neurologist determined that he should receive instruction with the Wilson Reading System® (WRS). WRS is an intensive Tier 3 program for students in grades 2-12 who require multisensory language instruction; or who require more intensive structured literacy instruction due to a language-based learning disability, such as dyslexia. Through this program, my son could MASTER fluent decoding and encoding skills with specialized instruction by specially trained professionals.

Kingsway doesn't currently have anyone on staff who is trained to offer this intensive instruction. An estimated 1 in 5 children is dyslexic. Yet, our teachers don't have the specialized training to support instruction. So I looked for a tutor. The tutor list provided by the Wilson Company includes more than 10 teachers from the Washington Township school system...all trained to use the Wilson Intensive system. When you're well-funded, you're able to train staff on critical instructional techniques and cutting edge strategies – to support ALL of the students at your school. When you're not, you hope parents can find and afford a tutor to give their kids what a school like Kingsway tries desperately to provide but can't. IDEA says my son is entitled to a Free and Appropriate Education. That starts with funding my school so they can train his teachers to provide it.

Due to lack of funds, we are talking about the depletion of crucial programs and a reduction in teachers and trained staff that are necessary for all children to meet academic standards so they can prepare for college or a career. My son doesn't need a study hall. He needs the state to do the right thing....

My children are, in many ways, poster children for public education – excellent students, athletes, musicians, service club members...the total package, as you'd say. Our booster clubs support more and

more of our extracurricular activities because our school doesn't have money. I do worry that our booster clubs can't continue to absorb budget shortfalls and soon won't be able to fundraise enough to give our students the basic gear and equipment they need to participate in activities safely. That's frightening in a district like Kingsway.

More importantly, booster clubs can't raise money to support academics. Kingsway is said to have one of the best-managed budgets in New Jersey with low administrative overheads and low cost-per-pupil expenses. Still...we're talking about cutting programs and dismissing teachers...adding more study halls and filling classes with more students. Our kids don't need more study halls and larger classes. And we shouldn't consider eliminating programming. There is already limited availability in many of our high school courses. In our middle school, it is not uncommon that children can't access after-school "homework club" for academic support. There are too many children trying to sign up, and not enough teachers to accommodate them. In both our high school and our middle school, I am blessed to tell you our teachers care so much that they offer support and assistance to students during lunch since they can't meet the need after school – but how long can you expect people to do this? And, is this an ideal learning environment?

I worry about the future of our elective courses if funding doesn't improve. Let's use band as an example, since my children all take band. Yes, students learn to play an instrument and become more knowledgeable about music, but that's just a small part of what being in band can offer. Studies show that students become more self-assured with band – and I saw this first-hand as I saw my dyslexic son FLOURISH in school (greater self-confidence, more interest in school overall) through participation in band. Band students are problem-solvers. They understand a sense of community and working together, and these are all the skills employers are looking for. They get that sense of being a part of something. Studies show that students who participate in music classes make better grades, score higher on SAT exams and are more likely to stay in school and graduate from high school. They are learning the higher-order thinking; being able to listen to things critically. So many things transfer over to other academics. We don't need more study halls. We need more classes like music...and technology...and foreign language. We don't have enough of these courses now – and they all support math, English, language arts, science – and test scores.

In my position with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, I work with schools throughout Gloucester County. I see the need throughout our county, especially in our poorest districts. I applaud your desire to reform how we fund our schools. And I know that our poorest districts need help. But let's not forget ALL of our districts. ALL of our kids are our future, yet so many of them could be better supported in school. I was one of them. I worked my way through the Lindenwold and Overbrook school systems. I know what it's like to attend school in district that's strapped for cash and short on staff and programming. That's why I worked my way through college...to give my kids what my parents only dreamed of. Now, I find myself asking why that hard work isn't translating into my children's school budget.

I know there is significant need everywhere...and many districts face funding challenges. I realize that I'm standing here asking you to fairly fund Kingsway and there are poor districts like Paulsboro and Glassboro that need money, too. But many of our other districts are being over-funded. Yes, I realize they need the money, too. But let's be fair. Apply the existing funding formula while you investigate options for new approaches. Give growing districts like Kingsway the money we deserve – the money we've paid – the money our kids need. Work with shrinking districts to refine their budgets when their student population decreases. We don't have a booster club to support academics. YOU are our booster club. Allocate our funds fairly...it's the right thing to do.

Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness

Date: Friday, January 27, 2017

Location: Kingsway Regional High School

Time: 11:00 AM

Scott Heino
Superintendent
Chesterfield Township School District
30 Saddle Way
Chesterfield, NJ 08515
(609)298-6900 x1229

Good Morning,

My name is Scott Heino, and I am the Superintendent of Schools for the Chesterfield Township School District. Chesterfield is a Pre-K through 6th grade school district housed in one building.

I want to share one fact with you that I hope you will keep in your mind as I speak today. I represent the Chesterfield Township School District, the most underfunded school district in the State of New Jersey. That's right; we are the most underfunded school district in the entire state. I am pleased to say we have a lot to be proud of in Chesterfield, but being the most underfunded school district in the entire state is not one of them.

In 2008, when the SFRA was enacted, Chesterfield School had an enrollment of 433 students. Our current enrollment is 774 students. Over the past 8 years, we've averaged 43 new students each year. That's significant growth! If you were to stand on the front sidewalk of our school and look to your left, you would clearly see the ongoing construction of a new housing development of over 280 new homes. In other words, our growth is far from over.

In 2008, with an enrollment of 433 students, our state aid was \$362,135. Since then we've grown by 341 students (78% growth). In 2016, our state aid was \$419,983. So even though we have seen tremendous growth and almost doubled in size, our state aid has only increased \$57,848. Considering our per pupil spending of \$16,514,

(\$3,137 less than the state average of \$19,651), the additional aid has not addressed our significant growth.

As I mentioned, last year the Chesterfield Township School District received \$419,983 in state aid. This represents only 11% of the \$3,685,520 aid we should receive through the SFRA. 11%! Under the SFRA, the tax payers of Chesterfield should contribute \$6,492,630 of our \$9,584,936 budget. Due to the unfair funding, our tax payers pay 139% of what they should pay according to the formula. So our tax payers pay \$9,040,635 of our \$9,584,936 budget.

Other than the obvious conclusion that the school district is underfunded through the SFRA, and the taxpayers of Chesterfield are paying well above their fair share, what does this mean? Last month, our auditor addressed the board of education, and he summed it up with this statement, "I have never seen a budget as tight as this one." After almost going into deficit last year, our outlook doesn't look good. I could sit here and list the things we don't have like a chorus program; or talk about the programs we've cut like Rise and Shine, a program designed to provide additional instruction to our students who struggle the most. I could share with you the frustration our tax payers experience each year during budget time, but I won't. I just want to give you a glimpse of our current situation.

Earlier this month, I cut off spending in the district. From now until the end of the year, essential expenses only. We have a geothermal system in the school with an underground "vault" that is a control room for the system. That vault is taking on natural ground water and requires repair. It is costing us over \$6,000 just to determine the problem. We can only imagine what the potential repair will cost. We've had two students move into the district this year with special needs who require out of district placements. One of the tuition costs is \$114,000 a year. This money was not budgeted. For some districts, these situations can be addressed; for Chesterfield, we are scrambling to find the money to address these issues and finish out the school year.

Again, we are growing tremendously. However, last year we did not have the money to add any classroom teachers, and our class sizes are increasing. As we are preparing our 2017/2018 budget, it is actually worse. We are in a position where we may need to cut staff. Again, we are averaging 41 new students each year, and we are cutting staff!

I share these examples with you for one reason - we need your help! I sat in a seat like this last year and testified in front of the Assembly and Senate. I've talked with my local assemblyman, I've attended hearings in Trenton to support school funding fairness, and we've worked to educate our community on school funding. I also belong to a group of other underfunded school districts who are working for a change in school funding. And the one thing that I can tell you with complete frustration, no one is doing anything! I know legislators agree with me on how unfair our current funding is; hopefully, that is the reason you are all sitting here today. However, the fact is that there is over \$600,000,000 in adjustment aid that has continued to be disbursed in the same way for the past 8 years with no adjustment based on the state's economic realities or due to changing demographic circumstances. Thus, I can't trust that anything will change.

The message is clear - no politician is willing to do what is right for school funding fairness. If our legislators were willing, we would have seen at least a change in the adjustment aid.

I sat in a hearing last week in Trenton. I was hopeful for change based on the fact that school funding fairness finally has some momentum behind it. I cannot describe to you how frustrating it was to sit and listen to legislators, as well as some who testified, talk about how, if we reallocate the adjustment aid, there will be winners and losers. And obviously, they don't want losers. You don't have to reallocate the adjustment aid to get losers - here I am, the biggest loser in the state with Chesterfield being funded at 11%! The SFRA is currently being funded at 85%, but Chesterfield only receives 11%!

I don't know how you can sit there and not feel a responsibility to address this issue. That being said, I understand that is why you are here today, and it is very much appreciated. Unfortunately, the Chesterfield Township School District doesn't have the time to continue to discuss this issue. Enough talk, we need action! We may not make it through another year. Understand that the need for reform is now, right now! I know that is not your plan, but I must still make the point that time is not on our side.

I am not an expert on school funding; I started this fight last year and have been working to become more knowledgeable on the topic. However, from listening to others whom I do consider to be experts, the New Jersey SFRA is a model for other states. Three states recently approved similar weighted funding formulas. In my

opinion, we have what we need to fairly fund our schools in New Jersey. The problem is, it is not being used.

Yes, little Chesterfield is just a small part of this state – probably a town many New Jerseyans have never even heard of. We are the little brother in the family, and we need a big brother to look out for us. For whatever reason, we are not being heard, or no one cares to hear. But we are part of this family, and we need to be heard. We need you to make this your priority. The fact that I'm worried about having the money to finish out the fiscal year and neighboring districts are completely satisfied with flat funding is a problem. The tax payers of Chesterfield have given well beyond their fair share.

We all know that the SFRA is currently underfunded by \$1.4 billion dollars. I'm not sitting here before you asking you to increase funding for the SFRA by \$1.4 billion dollars. I am simply asking for our fair share. To hear about districts that are over funded and communities that are not paying their fair share is tough. Fund the formula! If you can't fund the formula, distribute the money fairly. Chesterfield has given all they can give. There is nowhere else we can go. We are counting on you to do what is fair for the children of Chesterfield and throughout the State of New Jersey.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on school funding fairness.



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**Testimony Before the New Jersey Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness
Kingsway Regional High School, Cafeteria East
Friday, January 27, 2017**

By Joseph Meloche, EdD, Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public School District

Members of the committee, colleagues, and community members, my name is Joseph Meloche, I am the proud superintendent of the Cherry Hill Public School District in Camden County. I am grateful for the opportunity to address the committee and to humanize the impact the current approach to school funding has on the children of the Cherry Hill School District.

Cherry Hill is an incredible community in which to live and to work and especially to raise a family. Cherry Hill is where I grew up, where I attended school, and where my wife and I are raising our four children. The Cherry Hill School District is a wonderfully diverse tapestry of families of so many different backgrounds and means. Among our 11,254 children, 57 languages are spoken at home, more than 2,500 are bilingual, and in our six Title I schools, nearly 1 in 3 children are on Free or Reduced Lunch.

Our community supports education, in fact, our community demands a top quality education for each of our children. I am incredibly proud of our outcomes and our successes and our test scores and the external validation that we received – in fact, we were notified yesterday that the Cherry Hill School District was named a State District of Character!

The Board of Education in Cherry Hill, as a fluid body has maintained focus on student achievement and on fiscal responsibility. We have taken advantage of myriad opportunities to partner with the township on projects and squeeze everything we are able from our resources. But we are at a crossroads – the 81% of our budget that is funded by our community as a result of the disproportionate amount of state aide that we receive is negatively impacting our children. I currently have Advanced Placement classes at the high school level in excess of 40 students. We have eliminated staff, we have eliminated professional development opportunities, we have eliminated extra-curricular opportunities, we have frozen spending, and we have even heralded the nostalgic value of chalk in one of our middle schools instead of installing white boards. We allow students to carry more books because we have lockers that are unusable and must be replaced, just not yet. We have buildings that are tired at best – in fact, I had a legislator suggest creating a crisis in the community by allowing a building to be condemned to shed light on the inadequacy of the current state of funding. We are at a crisis. Today. We bandage and polish and shine and accommodate and explain to our parents that we are focusing on instruction and relationships and outcomes – which are critical and in which we are so successful – and we ask them look beyond the facilities, and the pot holes, the equipment that is not replaced and innovative programs that are not pursued. That while our neighbors have full day kindergarten, or one to one technology initiatives, we do not.

Fair funding? On behalf of the Cherry Hill School District, I want equitable funding. I want funding based on who we are today, in 2017, not who we were in 2005, or 1995, or 1985. I want legislature to uphold the commitment that was established in the adoption of the funding formula



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I am grateful for the opportunity to address the committee. Thank you for your time and your willingness to support children.

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**Testimony Before the Senate Select Committee on
School Funding Fairness
Kingsway Regional High School
Woolwich Township, NJ
Friday, January 27, 2017**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the committee. My name is Kathryn Judge from Cherry Hill, the 12th largest school district in NJ, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be here today to shed light on the lack of funding and would like to address this complex subject in the context of my own district's experiences.

We were forced with some very difficult decisions when the Governor confiscated \$3.2 million dollars from our fund balance in 2010 and slashed our budget (we were penalized for being frugal). Today, we do not receive what we received in 2009, even though many other school districts have been brought back to at least the 2009 budget levels.

For the last decade, we have focused our energies on maintaining low class size and instruction of the children of our district. This has concentrated our resources in the classroom, but has also restricted important programs in the district.

We cut spending on Professional Development and reduced stipends in each sport and club, which saved the district almost \$300,000. However, at the middle school level, sports are now restricted to approximately 20 kids per sport. There is no money. Previously, any child could participate.

The average age of our 19 buildings is 50 years old and working space is limited. Our current budget severely restricts maintenance efforts. We would need a multimillion dollar referendum just for black top.

We have no plans for a 1:1 technology initiative in Cherry Hill, to the surprise of our Executive County Superintendent. In fact, we use technology much longer than the expected life of 3-4 years with some of our technology extending beyond 7 years. We don't have the money.

In some of the AP classes at both East and West High School, there are 41 children sitting in the classroom. Our classrooms were not built to hold 41 desks. Some of the children sit on the floor and hope someone is absent so they can have their desk that day.

We do not offer full day kindergarten. We don't have the money for staffing and we don't have the space. If there is a mandate that we must offer full day kindergarten, it will not be in the traditional sense of home elementary schools because, again, we don't have the space. At one time, our District Factor Group was IJ. As of the last time District Factor Groups were analyzed, we are now GH. Even that designation no longer accurately reflects our District.

Of our 19 schools, a third are Title I schools. In those six building, one in three children are eligible for free and reduced lunch (33%)! 81% of Cherry Hill's school budget is from our local tax payers. Just think about that a minute. 81%!

In closing, clearly, Cherry Hill is no longer the 'wealthy' or "affluent" school district it once was and that the local media continues to refer to Cherry Hill as. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak in front of you today. I am happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Kathryn Bay Judge, Cherry Hill School District

BERLIN BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Where Students Discover Their Potential"

Mrs. Kristen Martello, Superintendent

Mr. Frank Domin, Business Administrator

Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness

January 27, 2017

Why are we having this hearing? There is a need for a fair and equitable funding formula, something that Schools and Tax payers can rely on. It's time to step up to the plate and stop relying on creative accounting to get out of the next budget year without thinking of the future. Some of us leave our positions, moving on, getting voted out, but the decisions we make based on the information we have to work with, affects the communities long after we leave.

I can go into what impact the current formula has on my local district but I want to talk in broad terms, simple terms, of what the impact of an equitable funding formula would have. Everyone can tell you what they could buy with more money. Spending money isn't always the answer. Having the time to spend it wisely is. But there are so many road blocks and time constraints that are in place to protect the use of public funds. Even if the economy quickly turned and projected revenues provided an increase in education aid, it would be hard to implement timely. Case in point would be the windfall in aid the Abbott Districts abruptly received. They could not expend it for years. I worked in an Abbott District for six years.

Since the current formula uses actual enrollment in the base calculation to project future funding, districts should be able to make short term budget projections based on their current enrollment patterns. To work with what we have, we need to institute a mechanism to make the formula work as it was intended to, based on actual enrollment without long term Save Harmless money added back into the formula.

Save Harmless Provisions in the formula are good for sudden changes in enrollment patterns that may only be a one year bubble moving through. Save Harmless Provisions give districts time to plan and help eliminate sea-saw effects on school programs, local tax rates, and budgeting for personnel.

BUT there is no current mechanism in the formula to gradually remove the Save Harmless monies. Can we make the existing formula work the way that it was intended too. Take a page out of the Chapter 78 phase in process and build in a phase out of Save Harmless mechanisms. This provides for a equitable distribution of the existing aid and gives school districts planning time to properly budget for program and personnel changes. Of course it will be painful for some of us. I work for two districts, one will be effected adversely.

Is there a need to come up with a new funding formula? That would be the ultimate goal, but in lieu of that, we need to let the existing formula work as it was intended to. Since we are not in a perfect world funding the formula will always be impacted by the amount of State money that is available. We know that, but as long as it is distributed as an equal percentage, local districts could budget accordingly.

Budgeting. A good budget is developed over 3 to 5 years, not to be finalized within 6 - 9 business days of the Governors address. That is why I am here. Your job is not an easy one. But I applaud your willingness to seek information that can assist you is completing the task that you have accepted.

We, the Business Administrators have a monumental task of working with what we are given and guiding the Board and Administration in preparing the annual budget. We are directed to run the schools like a business and create reports and audits according to (GAAP), Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. But the State does not have to follow the same rules!

Formulas are not formulas, there are always adjustments

Fiscal year funding is not fiscal year paid. Basic GAAP accounting calls that Check Kiting.

How do we budget for two State Aid payments that as a prudent accountant we know do not exist?

Debt Service payments. Fixed , or Fiction. When facility improvements are needed, BOE's make promises to the voters on the fixed tax impact to the average homeowner based on State formulas. Decisions are made to take a lesser amount as an immediate grant vs. Debt Service that is unpredictable. Debt Service was always questionable so the Grants were guarantees to the voters. Something that we could budget on. The Bank of the State of New Jersey does not honor their Promises. We have a new deduction to our State Aid and have to budget for the States Debt Service of the Grant that we received.

Thank you for undertaking this task.

Frank Domin, Business Administrator Board Secretary

Berlin Borough BOE and Gibbsboro BOE

Camden County

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BERLIN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

"Where Students Discover Their Potential"

January 27, 2017
Berlin Borough School District
Camden County
Kristen Martello, Superintendent

RE: School Funding

The disbursement of school funds in New Jersey continues to grow in disproportionate rates every year. All districts want to provide the best possible education to their students. In order to make this happen, districts have had to make cuts or require more of the tax payers in order to provide an education that fosters academic success.

New Jersey continues to implement new initiatives and programs that districts are required, or strongly suggested, to implement without ensuring that all districts have the funds necessary to make it happen. Future Ready is a great example of an initiative New Jersey is currently supporting. The summits and information have been exceptional as they have been sponsored by large companies; however, without the money to fund the technology required to put into each child's hand to be Future Ready, the effort will fail.

Something must be done now to gradually begin the process of moving toward equal funding to all districts. We cannot wait another day never mind another year! I am urging that we develop a gradual process to equal out school funding to all districts starting today.

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Egg Harbor Township Schools

Board of Education

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW JERSEY SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FUNDING FAIRNESS

Honorable Steven M. Sweeney - Chair

January 27, 2017

Presented by the Egg Harbor Township School District

Peter E. Castellano, Esq.
Member, Egg Harbor Township Board of Education

Justin A. Riggs
Member, Egg Harbor Township Board of Education

Fredrick P. Nickles
Interim Superintendent, Egg Harbor Township Schools

Chandra D. Anaya, CPA
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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Summary

On behalf of Egg Harbor Township, we would like to bring to your attention our desperate situation with regard to state school funding, and to explain the unique circumstances that Egg Harbor Township has faced, and continues to face, with each passing year that our School District is not adequately funded by the State of New Jersey. The topics we would like to address are: 1) A decade of rapid student population growth, mandated by the State Pinelands Commission, without corresponding state school aid increases, and EDA Assessments, 2) The effects of Atlantic City casino closures and a regional recession, and 3) How our kids are not getting what they need.

Mandated Growth and Flat State Aid

As a school district located in a Pinelands Regional Growth Area, the State of New Jersey has mandated the population growth of our township, which caused our school district to grow, but did not provide us with sufficient funds to educate the students that came to our district as a result of that mandate. At the same time, caps placed on budget and aid growth, coupled with years of flat state aid, simply did not allow us to keep pace with this growth. As a result, the continuing burden on the students and property taxpayers of Egg Harbor Township is particularly onerous.

Between 2000 and 2007, our district grew by 2,008 students, for a 7-year growth rate of 34.7%. During that period our **rate of growth was the highest in the state.** Our enrollment topped out at nearly 8,000 students, and is now approximately 7,500 – back in 2000, our enrollment was 5,791. During all this growth, our increases were capped and did not keep up with this growth. Our budgets have never been able to catch up with this growth.

According to the Department of Labor, over the 5-year period from 2000 to 2004, Egg Harbor Township had 2,976 single-family housing starts – that's the **highest number of any municipality in the state.** During that same period of time, our population grew by approximately 10,000, from 30,000 to 40,000. Residential growth has since slowed due to the economy, but we are still mandated to accommodate 22,000 additional residential units.

Under the current law that provides State Education Aid, the State Department of Education imposes a two-tiered cap on the growth of state aid given to a district over the prior year's state aid. This cap applies regardless

of costs, or the actual growth in student population. The Egg Harbor Township School District has lost over \$200 million since 2008-2009 – when the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) took effect, and another \$43 million under CEIFA dating back to 2000-2001, due to caps, freezes, and cuts in state aid to education.

For the current year, 2016-2017, our district had **\$27 million in aid withheld**. Our formula aid is almost completely flat from last year – again coming in at just under \$40 million, while the formula calls for \$67 million. This difference has to be made up by the property taxpayers.

Our Township residents have been faced with large property tax increases for most of the past decade, with no end in sight – in our FY 16/17 budget – we again had to go to the 2% property tax “CAP” and raise property taxes by 4 cents – yet we are still under-funded and need to make significant cuts. **From 2000 to 2012 our property taxes have doubled, with an 88% increase in the school tax rate.** Note: In 2001, state aid was approximately 60% of our budget – it has since fallen to approximately 35%.

We spend our funds wisely

As demonstrated by the 2016 DOE Taxpayer’s Guide to Education Spending, our total per-pupil budgetary spending is the 38th lowest in the state, at \$14, 283 – with the state average at \$15,296. And, our budget is **\$ 8 million below “Adequacy”** – that’s the amount of money the state says we should spend given the number of students we have.

Some examples – we have two independent foundations searching out alternate funding sources, as well as aggressive solar and energy savings initiatives. Each year, we ask our staff to do more with less across the board, in terms of personnel, equipment and supplies; we are down 100 staff since the 2009-2010 budget. We charge our students to participate in activities (pay to play) and we charge all outside groups to use our facilities.

EDA Assessments

Again this year, the state charged us a \$543,000 EDA Assessment. This arbitrary assessment is unfair, was never part of our bargain with the state, and was never agreed to by the people of Egg Harbor Township when we

chose to use the then Schools Construction Corporation (SCC) to build new schools. To date, this assessment has cost us nearly \$ 3 million.

2010-2011: \$400,347

2011-2012: \$319,537

2012-2013: \$472,583

2013-2014: \$543,131

2014-2015: \$543,131

2015-2016: \$543,131

2016-2017: \$543,131

Total = \$2,821,880

Effects of Atlantic City Casino Closures and Regional Recession

Egg Harbor Township paid a price for the economic boom of the local economy in the early to mid-2000s. However, Egg Harbor Township is now bearing the brunt of a persistent regional recession. Recent casino closures have severely impacted Egg Harbor Township residents. Atlantic County currently has the highest foreclosure rate in the nation, at 3.3 % and an unemployment rate of 7.1 %. Egg Harbor Township currently has 951 properties in some phase of foreclosure.

Egg Harbor Township suffers whether AC does well or does poorly. During boom times – the Pinelands Commission forces us to add residential housing without corresponding local aid. During bad times - people can't afford to pay their skyrocketing property taxes, and homes face foreclosure.

Effects on Education in Egg Harbor Township

With the increase in population described above, the Board and administration did its best to keep costs to a minimum and put resources to the classroom. But as a direct result of inadequate state aid, coupled with the EDA assessment, we have had to cut all middle school athletic and co-curricular programs, middle and high school summer school, bus runs, environmental programs, elementary and middle school gifted and talented, middle school afterschool remediation, grades 1-5 direct foreign language programming and instrumental music, middle school honors math and science, middle school math and reading specialists, and a number of high school clubs. Class sizes continue to grow. We are down approximately

100 staff since 2010, and we have been unable to address adding badly needed full-day kindergarten, and universal pre-K programs. The coming year's budget looks to be disastrous for our township.

Free and Reduced lunch Population and Special Education Costs

The Egg Harbor Township School District has gone from 27% free and reduced lunch to approximately 47% in the last 10 years due to the diminishing economy and demographic changes. Each year the district has had to reduce staffing in general education settings to meet the growing special education population and at-risk needs of our students. The cost for required paraprofessionals, mandated special education teachers to meet compliance, and a large increase in the autistic population has hi-jacked the majority of the budget with no clear end in sight as the community continues to struggle with job loss, foreclosures, mandated affordable housing, and the social challenges that come with those paradigm shifts.

What we need right now:

Fully fund the formula With the imposition of a 2 % property tax cap, our only hope to be able to educate our children is through **ADEQUATE STATE AID**. Funding must be on a per pupil basis, based on actual student counts.

Reform the school budget process The Governor issues state aid amounts in late February, and districts must submit their final budgets in early March. For as long as anyone can remember, those numbers have not been in accordance with the funding formula, which is required by the State Constitution. By the time the legislature passes a budget in July, school budgets are set. The legislature needs to have a say in the process before state aid and school budgets are finalized.



New Jersey School Boards Association

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TESTIMONY ON SCHOOL FUNDING

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JANUARY 17, 2017

The New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) is a federation of the state's local boards of education and includes the majority of its charter schools as associate members. NJSBA provides training, advocacy and support to advance public education and promote the achievement of all students through effective governance. The Association's positions on school funding are derived from policies established by our members, who represent local boards of education throughout the state.

The NJSBA believes that New Jersey's system of financing public schools should enable all local school districts to provide equal opportunity for all children in New Jersey to receive a thorough and efficient education. Such a system must take into account two factors: the educational needs of students, and the ability of a community to financially support its schools.

The NJSBA believes that the state revenue raising system should embody the following characteristics:

- Guarantee sufficient revenue to consistently meet the state's constitutional and statutory funding obligations to the public schools;
- Be balanced with respect to the ability to expand and contract in response to economic conditions (elasticity) and the capacity to produce a stable flow of revenue (stability);
- Be balanced with respect to sources of revenue (individuals, businesses, property, sales, etc.); and
- Be designed to consider both an individual's and a community's ability to pay.

Furthermore, NJSBA believes that the state should fund 50 percent of the statewide total cost of providing a thorough and efficient education for all public elementary and secondary students so that pressures on local property taxes can be relieved. This will invariably require the state to rebalance its current funding sources: the income tax and the local property tax.

The Association supported the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) when it was first enacted in the 2008-2009 school year as a constitutional remedy which met our basic criteria for a statewide funding mechanism to support the state's public school system.

Unfortunately, as a combined result of legislative tinkering and a severe economic downturn, the law was only fully funded in its first year. For the last eight years, the allocation of school aid through SFRA has included a provision stipulating that no district can receive less aid than it received previously, a legislative 'hold harmless' clause, that has constrained promised increases in funding to districts that have experienced increases in enrollment. The "hold harmless" clause, in addition to enrollment caps built into the formula that have been frozen since 2009, has mitigated the positive effect of SFRA for many districts, which would have received significant increases in aid because of enrollment growth since the inception of the SFRA.

Additionally, the SFRA further reduced aid to districts with special education students by wealth-equalization of a portion of this aid, which was previously disbursed on a categorical basis.

Lastly, the impact of the 2 percent tax levy cap, not anticipated by the SFRA, has further constrained local districts' ability to raise local revenue to offset what would have been provided through SFRA had it not been limited by restrictive budget language.

What happens if the state continues to refuse to apply or fund the formula? Local school districts will increasingly find themselves looking for cost-saving reductions that limit extra-curricular activities and perhaps even educational programming options, which they can no longer afford.

Remarks for the New Jersey Assembly School Funding Public Hearing

Bob Dailyda

January 27, 2017

Hello. I am here as a concerned taxpayer and parent in Egg Harbor Township, NJ. I would like to discuss the state of Egg Harbor Township's education funding.

Egg Harbor Township School Funding

Egg Harbor Township (EHT) is a school district located in a Pinelands Regional Growth Area of Atlantic County. As dictated by the Pinelands Commission, we have experienced particularly high growth since 2000 with an average of 500 single family housing starts per year over a decade, the highest in the state.

In 2000 we had roughly 5,800 students and about a decade later we hit 8,000. This was a growth of close to 40%, the highest growth in the state. This kind of growth comes at a significant cost, but we were mandated to grow by the state without adequate compensation in what amounts to an unfunded mandate. We have borne the brunt of the cost by steep increases in our local taxes which [have risen 20% in just the last 6 years alone, and] are becoming unaffordable for many.

In 2001 state aid was approximately 60% of our school budget, this year it is down to roughly 30%. Over the last several years our state aid per year has been over \$10M less than what the funding formula requires. At the same time caps placed on budget and aid growth coupled with 5 years of flat state aid simply did not allow us to keep pace with this growth. We have been behind the curve for a decade and it is only getting worse.

Our funding is even unfair when compared to other districts. As a comparison, we receive only \$5,300 per student in state aid while Pleasantville right down the road gets over \$16,000 per student as an SBA/Abbott District. We rank near the bottom of our peer group of districts (#8 out of 10) in state aid per student (K-12 with over 3,501 students and a CD DFG). From this peer group, why does Pennsauken get \$9,151 per student while we get \$5,300? Why does Winslow get \$8,864 per student while we get 5,300? Belleville and Neptune are a similar story. We're not even close.

Compounding matters, our local economy is in a regional recession due to 5 Atlantic City Casino closures with over 1,100 EHT residents losing their jobs (and that does not include the Taj Mahal impact).

We have a township unemployment rate that peaked [in 2013] at 13.8%; among the worst in the country. More recently it is close to 7%, why, because EHT Labor force is down over 10% [from the peak of in 2012 to now (23,960 in Jul 2012 to 21,518 in Jul 2016 which is 10.2% reduction in workers)]...people are leaving for better pastures.

Making matters worse, is that these people leaving can't sell their homes and their homes are left empty in foreclosure. There are currently 956 properties in some stage of foreclosure in EHT [according to RealtyTrac]. With still 7% unemployment plus many others now underemployed; financial stress is rampant. One measure is almost 48% of EHT students now qualify for free or reduced price lunch, up from 27% just a decade ago.

We are experiencing a perfect storm of high growth that we could not keep up with, less than expected state aid, and a devastating blow to our local economy. Our residents are hurting and this hurt has been

Bob Dailyda
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forced upon us by the state by the unfunded growth mandate and severe underfunding. We are only asking for our fair share of funding to make it right for the people of our district.

Additional Unfair Tax Burden

Adding even more to the burden is an unfair EDA assessment that we have been charged by the state over the last five years. EHT had to build schools and additions due to the mandated rapid student population growth and received an EDA grant with the understanding that, as a grant, it did not require any residual payback to the state. This year's EDA assessment of \$543K alone accounts for a 1.3 cent tax to our already overtaxed residents. This is an arbitrary assessment that was never disclosed by the State and never approved by the Egg Harbor Township voters.

Assemblyman Mazzeo introduced a budget resolution to address this last year, but the cut was vetoed out of the budget. We ask that you please do everything in your power to help end this assessment.

Thank You!
Bob & Shae Dailyda
55 Marshall Drive
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Point Summary:

- Egg Harbor Township experiencing a perfect storm of mandated high growth that we could not keep up with, less than expected state aid, followed by a devastating blow to our local economy. State aid to Egg Harbor Township is well below the funding formula and that of its peers; we deserve our fair share of state aid.
- The state's EDA assessment of \$543K to Egg Harbor Township is an arbitrary assessment that was never disclosed by the State and never approved by the Egg Harbor Township voters. It needs to be repealed.

Testimony before the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness

Kingsway Regional High School, Woolwich Township: January 27, 2017

Good afternoon. My name is Robert Goldschmidt, and I currently serve as the interim superintendent in Woodbury City. I serve in the role formerly held by Mr. Joseph Jones, whom I know many of you have heard from, as Joe was the single most tireless and articulate advocate for full funding I know.

School funding and New Jersey- for too long now, for decades, the issues of how to fund and how to distribute funding for our schools has been the “third rail” of state issues- everyone sees it, everyone knows it needs to be there, but no one dare touch it, at least not effectively, because it has required a unique brand of courage and leadership.

In the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 many of us thought we had heard an answer. Proportional funding which would take into account the dizzying combination vexing our schools and educators: children in poverty who require additional and intense services; children with special needs who need and deserve every bit of help we can give and who as we now know, are best educated as close as possible to their homes and home schools; an avalanche of new federal and state mandates, every one of which requires either additional dollars or additional staff to meet; and the issue of local taxes, and how to meet the needs above efficiently and at a reasonable burden to taxpayers.

The failure during the last eight years to fully fund this formula, and to allow it to exercise the periodic adjustments it needed, has in many cases compromised the avowed mission of our schools. I am here to testify not only as a citizen and taxpayer, but as an administrator who has worked now in two districts of great need who have consistently been shortchanged in meeting the needs of their children: Woodbury City and Riverside. In each city, aside from high poverty rates and severe economic instability, committed families and educators remain handicapped in their efforts to assist their children in getting a truly equal chance to succeed. In fact, students in these two communities quite often succeed not

because of state funding, but in spite of its limitations. This is absolutely contrary to the reasonable, and truly fair, intent of the SFRA.

In many of these communities, a large number of children can be the first in their families to graduate from college, but if financial and academic issues prevent that, then New Jersey faces a dire kind of future no one will discuss. Recent distortions of the concept of "fair" are almost Orwellian in their intent, and we can ill afford to fall victim to them in the state or in our nation. Complex problems can rarely be solved by simple answers or clever mottos.

In communities like Woodbury, and some who are not, by the formula local citizens pay an unfair share of the objective "cost of an adequate education." Fully funding the SFRA can, if not reduce all property taxes; at least distribute them properly across the state based on the needs of its children and communities. Public education, we can never forget, is a state right and a state responsibility. It developed in this country to prepare a qualified citizenry and a productive workforce, factors which could unify and strengthen us. We can no longer afford to be 580 isolated systems pitted against each other based on wealth, property values, race or zip codes. But the first step in true recovery will be a fair, deliberate and predictable adjustment of state aid based on the formula already in place, to fully fund it and plan to do so and then actually carry out that plan.

Woodbury has been designated as a DFG "B" district, meaning simply that, after the 31 former Abbott districts, it is in the next tier of districts with high poverty, poor tax valuation of property, and other factors which hold down the ability of the local community to fund real educational need. Since the state demands a system of thorough and efficient education, it is only the state which can correct this inequity.

By the SFRA formula. Woodbury City is shortchanged by the State of New Jersey an incredible \$4 million dollars in aid, receiving only 75% of what it needs and should get. Knowing both the community and its schools, there is an amazing commitment by its citizens, families and teachers to do everything for its students. The schools have been honored for their efforts at creating more

opportunity for its historically underserved populations. There has been no “lavish spending,” no “pie in the sky” dream projects to whittle away scarce resources. In fact, there is a constant struggle to provide the fully rounded educational experience that many other districts take for granted. This is not due to any lack of character, determination or ability on the part of Woodbury itself; in fact it is a frugal district. The SFRA formula might not be perfect, but we won’t know that until it is fully funded and implemented, which has never taken place.

This is not just a Woodbury problem- across the state such “B” districts have only percentages of the aid they should receive:

Burlington County- Riverside is short \$5.5 million, getting 66% of what it should.

Hudson County- Kearney is short over \$34, getting 47% of what it should.

Bergen County- Lodi is short almost \$20 million, receiving 42% of its aid.

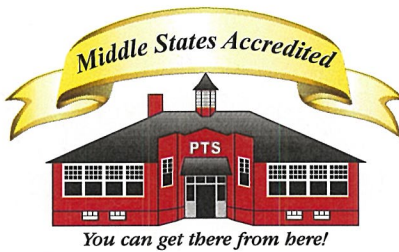
Camden County- Runnemede is \$2.5 million short, receiving 66% of its aid.

Cumberland County- Cumberland Regional is \$3 million short, receiving 80%.

I am very familiar with two of these districts, but there are 42 such school districts in the state, and these are just from the “2nd poorest” state DFG classification. I am sure there are dozens and dozens more.

I applaud the courage inherent in SR-100, and all of you for your willingness to serve on this committee. I join the voices of all of my fellow parents, taxpayers and citizens, and the community which I proudly serve, to ask you to make the adjustments necessary to better level the playing and learning field for our children. They are all New Jersey children; they deserve the constitutional right guaranteed to them here; and as change races forward, we and they cannot afford more delay. Thank you.

Robert H. Goldschmidt, Interim Superintendent
Woodbury City Public Schools
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PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

TONY TRONGONE
Superintendent

January 27, 2017

To: Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the allocation of State school aid and its impact on educational quality.

Pemberton Township Schools serves over 5000 students, of which 1,073 are connected to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Pemberton Township Schools offers academic and extra-curricular programs commensurate to other school districts, but some important factors separate us from similar districts serving low income and poverty-level families.

The first is our unique relationship with nearly 800 military families. JB MDL is recognized as an Extraordinary Family Member Program (EFMP) Base, meaning military officials have determined that families with special needs can be adequately served if they are assigned to this base, and officials take that into consideration during their assignment coordination. Well-renowned for our outstanding special education services, Pemberton provides military families with special needs children with a wide range of services from in-class resource support to out-of-district placements with acute support services. Many of these services are provided over and above the level of compensation provided by federal Impact Aid.

The second important consideration affects Pemberton's ability to pay from local fair share. New building and land development is prohibited in 95% of Pemberton Township, due to regulations set forth by the Pinelands National Preserve, protected wetlands regulations, farmland preservations and county occupied land. **This severely limits our ability to increase our tax base.**

A final point that differentiates Pemberton from many urban schools is the geography and expanse of our location. Pemberton Township is 62.5 square miles, with a population of just a little over 27,000. The additional 24 square miles of JB MDL make traversing the county and busing students a challenging and time consuming endeavor. A student's travel time may be over 45 minutes each way, as our 10 schools are located in clusters sharing one campus. This arrangement of 2 to 3 schools directly adjacent to each other requires additional teachers and administrative support, but because of the strict building constraints detailed above, is unable to be modified.

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Pemberton Learning Community: Pursuing Excellence One Child at a Time

1234

As defined in the preceding paragraphs, Pemberton faces unique and challenging circumstances and will be unable to close a \$52 million funding gap as proposed by Governor Christie. Long recognized as a fiscally prudent school district by both independent auditors and state organizations (such as the SDA), Pemberton has been continually working on reducing our reliance on adjustment aid and plans to reduce our expenses incrementally over 5 years. The district will also begin working with the Pemberton Township municipality in analyzing the fiscal impact the increase in local share above the 2% cap will have on its citizens. (If this becomes allowable by law.)

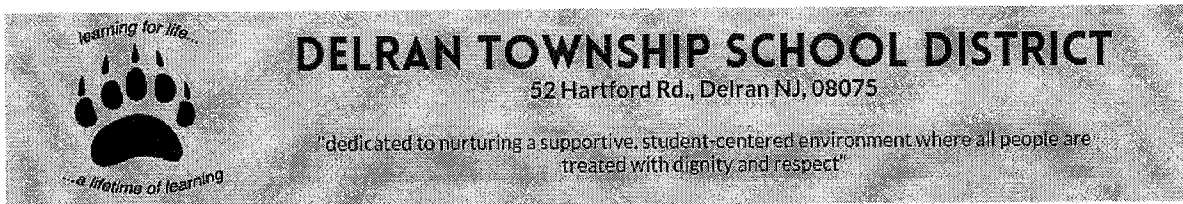
My extensive background in curriculum and instruction has shown me that in order to see positive results of a curriculum initiative, we *must* adhere to the fidelity of implementation that the research behind the curriculum tells us we must follow. When we change the guidelines and go off course with implementation, we will not see—nor should we expect to see—the promised results. I believe that same principle can be applied to the State school funding formula as well. After it was implemented in its first year, the fidelity of implementation was not maintained, resulting in the current situation at hand.

We are requesting the governor to follow the State school funding formula as it was intended to be implemented in 2009.

Thank you for your consideration.



Tony Trongone
Superintendent of Schools



Senator Sweeney, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to share the my thoughts regarding school funding. My name is Dr. Brian Brotschul and I am the Superintendent of Schools in Delran Township.

The Delran Township Board of Education believes that resolving the chronic underfunding of education is the highest of its priorities and has said so via formal resolution. The annual shortfall of operating funds impacts everything we do. If the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 were fully implemented in Delran Township, uncapped and as originally intended, we would have had \$93,762,560 more dollars in aid. What does this mean?

This means that in I cut millions of dollars of justifiable expenses from our annual budget. This means that as a bevy of unfunded mandates continue to bombard school administrators, I find either the money to fund them or the human capital to oversee them. This means that as we are charged with creating learning environments and programs for students that prepare them for careers that don't even exist, I can barely staff schools with required staff members. This means that as the districts around me flourish with the added bonus of adjustment aid that was only intended to last one year to soften the blow to a fully implemented SFRA, Delran struggles to provide services to specialized populations, not the least of which is a burgeoning English language learner group new to the country. This means that as we outgrow our spaces in two of our four schools that I can't in good consciousness recommend to the Board to ask the taxpayers for an additional cent through a referendum. This means, overall, that we are strapped by a funding plan that does not allow us to be great at what we do and barely allows us to be good.

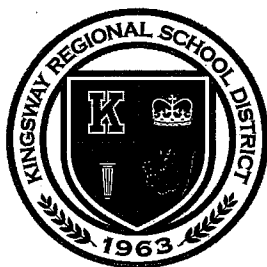
This means that improving student achievement – the very reason teachers and administrators are hired and the measuring stick for all Board of Education members statewide is increasingly more difficult to sustain. This means that there over one third of districts receive more than what the formula calls for and two thirds receive significantly less. This means that the two thirds of districts have to tax above their local communities' fair share. This means that the goal when you all set out to implement the SFRA has never been attained.

Who is responsible for this? Well, I know it is not our local Delran taxpayers. They are already being taxed above their fair share. We have taken every tax dollar as allowable by law since 2011. There is no more banked cap to apply. There is no new healthcare contribution income coming from the very employees that suffer on the other end from larger class sizes and shrinking supply budgets.

SFRA was realistic and anticipated that there might come a point where full funding might not be possible. In the law, I ask that you reference specifically [NJSA 18A:7F-52](#), it contains a provision to proportionally divide available equalization aid between the districts if full funding is not possible.

It is my hope that this body will take the necessary steps to resolve this disparity. Our students are depending on it.

APPENDIX



KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

*Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools*

Testimony provided by Dr. James J. Lavender, Superintendent of the Kingsway Regional School District on Friday, January 27, 2017 before the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness.

Good morning Senators, and welcome to Kingsway Regional High School. My name is Jim Lavender and I am the Superintendent of the Kingsway Regional School District, a position I've held since 2010. I am also a shared superintendent with the South Harrison Township Elementary School District, a sending elementary school within the Kingsway Regional system. However, my testimony this morning will focus solely on Kingsway's funding plight as I see that our funding imbalance touches every school, community and taxpayer who make up Kingsway's 57-square mile border surrounding the Townships of East Greenwich, South Harrison, Woolwich and the Borough of Swedesboro.

At Kingsway, we take great pride in our achievements, we are passionate about the services and opportunities we provide, and we value high quality education. Our motto *Committed to Excellence* drives us to ensure the sound educational experience our students and community deserves. Our name is consistently echoed throughout the region as an exemplar. We have the highest high school graduation rates in the county, a high school ranked alongside other top high schools in South Jersey, a middle school that serves as model for other middle schools in the area, advanced placement offerings that have been nationally recognized by College Board, and a competitive and accomplished performing arts and athletic programs.

Despite all our accomplishments, Kingsway may be better known as one of the State's fastest growing school districts, serving two of the fastest growing municipalities – the Townships of Woolwich and East Greenwich. As a result, Kingsway's population growth has increased by more than 1,405 students over the last fifteen years. Unfortunately, state aid has failed to keep pace. In 2001, state support for the Kingsway Regional School District equaled \$5,280 per student. In the

Home of the Dragons

current 2016-2017 school budget, state aid per pupil was reduced to \$3,770. This represents a 29% reduction in State Aid per pupil over a period of 15 years. As you can imagine, the contradiction between unrelenting pupil enrollment growth and state aid reductions per pupil has placed extraordinary demands on our facilities, programs, and staff.

Throughout this same period Kingsway continued to implement cost-saving measures in an effort to reduce the tax burden while maintaining quality programs for our students. In the 2016 Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending, the Kingsway Regional School District was ranked first out of forty-six (7-12) regional school districts throughout the state as the lowest spending in regard to budgetary per pupil costs (\$10,537.) For FY 2017, Kingsway's budgetary cost per pupil was reduced to \$10,362 and is lower than the \$15,296 state average, and markedly lower than other districts such as Monmouth County's Henry Hudson Regional, which spends nearly \$22,000 per pupil.

Despite our efforts, the burden to fund our school district has consistently been shifted to our local taxpayers. Throughout the same fifteen-year period where state aid per pupil has decreased by 29%, local property taxes per pupil have increased by more than 142%, from \$3,549 in 2001 to \$8,600 in 2016. This dramatic shift of responsibility has made it increasingly difficult to preserve our quality school system.

In 2008, we had hope that a solution to our problems was found with the passage of the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA). The new funding formula guaranteed that state school aid would be distributed fairly and equitably based on a formula that took into account each town's property tax base, its ability to pay, increases and decreases in enrollment, and the special needs of children. It was a formula that finally ended New Jersey's tortured history on school funding fairness, was lauded by experts throughout the country, and according to New Jersey's Supreme Court, SFRA's design was found to meet the constitutional mandates of *Abbott v. Burke*, for all students.

As a result, Kingsway, like many other districts, received a 20 percent increase in state aid for the 2008-09 school year and consequently adopted a school budget that called for the smallest local tax increase in a decade. We were also assured by then Commissioner of Education Lucille Davy that Kingsway would be afforded 20 percent increases per year for the next five years until we were made whole. This recognition and increase in state aid would have put Kingsway on par with other



communities and eased the unfair tax burden placed on our local residents who make up the difference in funding our public schools. In fact, had the Kingsway Regional School District been funded at the levels the SFRA phase-in promised, we would have levied \$32.8 million dollars less than we did in the nine years since SFRA was adopted.

In the years after SFRA was adopted, state aid promises were never fulfilled. As a result, the status quo was protected and overfunded school districts continued to benefit at the cost of those who have historically been underfunded. Districts with declining enrollments were held harmless while growth districts continued to be ignored. Consequently, Kingsway and districts like Kingsway have fallen far from the promises of a constitutionally sound, nationally recognized school funding formula.

The continued failure by the State of New Jersey to recognize our plight cannot be ignored. To illustrate this point, using the Department of Education's State School Aid publication showing SFRA funding for the current year, I can show that a comparable high school less than a thirty-minute drive from here, receives 135% of full, uncapped SFRA funding. In contrast, Kingsway Regional receives just 46%. In fact, eight school districts in Gloucester County alone receive more than 100% of full, uncapped SFRA funding, including one elementary district that receives 156% funding, while two of Kingsway's sending elementary school districts, Swedesboro-Woolwich and East Greenwich, receive 56% and 49% respectively.

The truth is that New Jersey's Legislature should be applauded for the work they did to rectify decades of underfunding the neediest students through the adoption of SFRA. However, the hold harmless provision implemented through the budget, arbitrarily disregarding SFRA, has resulted in the disparate treatment of NJ students in underfunded districts. How can a Governor of a State, a Commissioner of Education or any member of the legislature today, nine years after the implementation of the hold harmless provision, reasonably say that some students in the State of New Jersey are entitled to 156% of their school funding while other students are entitled to only 46%?

If Trenton officials are going to hold Kingsway students to the same high school graduation measures as every other student, yet continue to fund our schools unfairly, then the hypocrisy of



government is alive and well in New Jersey and is then best measured by how our leaders in Trenton have treated our children.

I don't believe this is the case and the mere fact that you are hear, listening to testimony, indicates to me that you want this problem fixed as badly as we do. Please know, that if Kingsway, and districts like Kingsway, are to be held to the same regulatory standards by the Department of Education as the overfunded school districts; and if our teachers are going to be held to the same evaluation measures as teachers in every other school district; and if we expect every child to enter kindergarten ready to learn and to graduate high school college and career ready, then it is your moral imperative, your just obligation to ensure that every one of the 586 school districts is funded fairly.

Senators, I implore you to address the inequity of funding throughout our State. I ask that the legislature reconfigure state funding amounts so that they conform to the SFRA and omit the "hold harmless" provision from the budget. This will ensure that every student receives their constitutionally guaranteed education funding. I am asking that you intervene now, and in time before we strike our operating budgets for the 2017-18 school year, and protect every student in New Jersey and ensure that every student receives a thorough and efficient education. Our students, our faculty and our taxpayers cannot afford to be ignored another year.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony.

Very truly yours,



Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools





KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

*Dr. James J. Lavender, ext. 4205
Superintendent of Schools*

*Mr. Jason Schimpf, ext. 4203
School Business Administrator*

**TESTIMONY AS PROVIDED BY JAMES MUELLER, BOARD PRESIDENT,
KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, ON JANUARY 27, 2017 BEFORE THE
SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FUNDING FAIRNESS**

Good morning Senators, thank you for your time today and your consideration of my testimony.

My name is James Mueller and I am a resident of East Greenwich Township for the last 14 years. I am also a past Board of Education Member for the East Greenwich Township Elementary School District, having served two terms. Currently, I represent East Greenwich Township on the Kingsway Regional School District Board of Education and have the pleasure of serving as Board President. One of my greatest pleasures in my role is having had the privilege of handing over 700 high school diplomas to talented Kingsway graduates.

I am also a veteran of the United States Army & the Florida National Guard. Having received Honorable Discharges from both, I live by the ARMY Creed. That Creed states, I am an American Soldier, I am a warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the ARMY Values. The Creed ends with - I will always place the mission first. I've also taken an oath to support and defend the constitution of the United States of America and as an elected School Board official, I've taken the oath to serve and protect the constitution of United States and the State of NJ as you all have. I take these oaths seriously. I approach my Sales profession, this School District and my community while, always placing the mission first.

So what is the mission? The mission started back when I joined the East Greenwich Board of Education in 2008 when I wanted to fully understand where my taxes were going since my school taxes seemed to be going through the roof year after year. I wanted to see how the money was

Home of the Dragons

being spent. To my surprise, it was not being improperly appropriated, but being managed the best it could be based upon the tax revenue received and the minimal funding from the state at that time. Then, the housing market exploded. This region was one of the fastest growing communities in the Country for a number of years. During this time, to my surprise, state funding to the schools was held flat while our enrollment was exploding at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Our community was then asked to support two large building expansions via referendum. One at the elementary school to the tune of \$25 million dollars and one at Kingsway for approximately \$31 million. So in the course of a number of years this community (not including other sending districts projects) took on \$56 million dollars in building projects on the backs of its residents. Yes, the state helped a little (I think it was \$7 million & \$11 million respectfully), but the brunt of the expansion cost was placed on this community via property tax increases to cover the cost of debt issuance.

Those days seem long ago, but they aren't at all. We continue to have student expansion here at Kingsway at 5% year over year with space and programs being limited. So the mission continues, as it was then – to be fairly funded and ensure our taxes are being spent wisely. We aren't asking for anything that is not already approved and specified in the SFRA, but for some reason this community has been ignored. We are a staple for how shared services are working (other districts ask us how we are doing it and the state says you're doing a great job keep it up), but when we needed a referendum to expand our transportation facilities (which generates about \$500k per year via shared services) and our infrastructure need improvements (track and other improvements) it was voted down by our community twice.

The residents are tapped out, and have told us they can't support a new track, infrastructure improvements for our transportation facility or other projects that this school desperately needs. These aren't luxury items, but are functional and operational items that any district requires. Don't get me started on the Band Bus which is about the most embarrassing representation on wheels we have here at Kingsway. Let me digress for one moment; last football season when we're playing another district located in Gloucester County here at Kingsway, Dr. Lavender and I



strolled around to the visitor's side of the field. To our astonishment, the visiting team and band arrived in nine school buses, an 18 wheeler containing 3 tractors, a 50 foot motorized boom to film the game as well as other gear. All the while our hollowed out 1991 red bus sat close to the dilapidated track. This was a gross display of inequitable funding at its finest and we were left speechless.

Speaking of other schools, a comparable school system in the next town over, has a beautiful facility and campus. They are very similar in economic demographics, but for some strange reason (may be the SFRA hold harmless clause) with their enrollment declining, receives \$6 million more than Kingsway on an annual basis in the form of state aid. That to me and others within our community makes no sense at all. Don't get me wrong, we have great relationships with these school districts and in no way mean to create an "us versus them" situation. We are simply trying to demonstrate the vast inequality that exists in relation to school funding within this State.

Let me get back to the mission. We are all elected representatives in one respect or another, whether we represent Local, County, BOE, and State office etc... What is expected when we are elected? It is expected that we make the tough decisions and implement those decisions, not take the easy way out. When I have to stand in front of a pack auditorium and inform the community that we are facing a \$2+ million budget deficit for 2017-18 school year and cuts will have to be made that gets the communities attention. But, we do it because we have too, we can't run a deficit, period. That is the hardest decision we make at this level of government. Our mission is, we balance budgets, fund programs within our abilities and treat our programs with fairness and respect. But, the State in regards to funding this district and the sending schools have not respected nor funded our region appropriately. Our communities' income tax dollars are leaving this area and they aren't coming back to this community in the form of state aid to our schools and it's downright unacceptable. What I don't understand is how Kingsway can only be funded at 46% of the SFRA funding model and other communities in the State get more than 100% and in



some case more than 150% of funding. That needs to change and it can't come too soon for this district as we are in a crisis and we see no light at the end of the tunnel.

In closing, let me leave you with this, **always place the mission first**, know your constituents, know their demands and requirements as this issue is not going away, but we are more than willing to ensure we help you in making the correct decision for our community and the other severely underfunded communities within the state.

Thanks for your time and consideration today. I will be happy to entertain any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

James Mueller, President
Kingsway Regional Board of Education





KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

Dr. James J. Lavender, ext. 4205
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Patricia Calandro, ext. 4250
Chief Academic Officer

Testimony provided by Patricia A. Calandro, Chief Academic Officer for the Kingsway Regional School District on Friday, January 27, 2017 before the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness.

Good morning, Senators:

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to speak today. My name is Patricia Calandro, and I currently serve as the Chief Academic Officer for the Kingsway Regional School District. In this role, I am the chief administrator in charge of school curriculum and programs for all students in grades 7 through 12. Prior to this role, I served as a special education teacher for nine years and I am entering into my sixth year as a school administrator at Kingsway.

Alongside my colleagues, I experience first-hand how the state's refusal to appropriately and fairly fund our district continues to fail our students and our community. Despite years of creative budgeting, hard work, and simply doing more with less, I sit here today saddened by the fact that we are officially broken. Today, I need to hire approximately twenty-five teachers across the district to operate programs appropriately, but funding shortfalls prevent me from doing so. Even more, I am disappointed that it comes as a result of the state's failure to understand the devastating impact unfair funding practices have on the very students we have been charged with developing and protecting.

As public educators, we are responsible for providing comprehensive educational programs for all children so that we can cultivate successful, informed citizens that can compete globally. Kingsway is not only faced with having to cut programs but also stifled in its ability to produce college and career tracks that we know our students require to grow intellectually and interpersonally.

At a time when we are charged with effectively preparing students for jobs that do not yet exist, we are unable to offer a range of technology classes or provide our students with the technology they need to be successful in a competitive environment. Our inability to upgrade our wireless network infrastructure makes the infusion of educational technology into the classroom unreliable and thus ineffective. Our high school students consistently express a desire to take Advanced Placement courses or career-centered electives, but we cannot meet the demands due to budget constraints, specifically the lack of teachers. Students are left to choose a study hall or a course that does not support their career goal. In our last strategic planning process, our community overwhelmingly asked us to expand our academies and to develop additional programs that meet their child's college and career goals—types of provisions the state sites in code as secondary education initiatives to support student achievement (6A:13-2.2). And, while Kingsway has the talent to create the programs, we do not have the money.

Home of the Dragons

Because of our current situation, class sizes continue to grow significantly. In our middle school, 98 classes have a class size of 30 or greater with many of the remaining classes just one or two students away from this threshold. Yet, classrooms remain empty. While Kingsway has the physical space to accommodate this population, we do not have the funding to hire the teachers to reduce class size to appropriate numbers. To be clear, when I discuss these numbers, I am referring to our current situation. Next year, with our projected incoming 7th grade class of approximately 492 students – our situation becomes even more critical. Without our fair share of state funding, nearly every class at the middle school next year will have a class size of 30 or greater. In the high school, it is not uncommon to walk into a physical education class with more than 40 students assigned to one teacher. When class size reaches this level, we have to be concerned about student safety in addition to student learning.

Additionally, this past year we faced a shortage of special education teachers. As a result, we had to submit three different applications for waivers to the county regarding class size restrictions for special education students placed in their least restrictive environment – a requirement under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The maximum group size for in-class resource programs has been set by the state of New Jersey as 10 (N.J.A.C. 6A:14). Although the waivers were approved, this is in no way ideal. We are overloading inclusive classes to ensure special education students have access to the specialized instruction they require in their least restrictive setting. IDEA states, “Almost 30 years of research and experience has demonstrated that the education of children with disabilities can be made more effective by ensuring their access to the general education curriculum in the regular classroom, to the maximum extent possible.” Simply stated, we do not have the special education teacher resources to adhere to the legal limits set under IDEA.

It is because of the dedicated administrators, faculty and staff that refuse to give up on our kids that Kingsway continues to push forward and produce successful and prepared students. Unfortunately, this is done without the state’s support that is owed to them. Kingsway’s students are entering into the same competitive environment as those just three miles down the street receiving at or above the statewide average. Yet, the state’s practice of not funding the formula has generated an unlevelled playing field for our kids. Because of the state’s failure to support our students, I fear they will continue to miss out on academic experiences that would provide them with a rounded education and focused college and career track.

I ask, today, for your voice in this fight so that we can ensure our students and community receive what is owed to them. I want to make it clear, that we are not asking for more than our share; we are asking only for what our students and communities have been promised under New Jersey’s School Funding Formula. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Patricia Calandro
Chief Academic Officer





KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

*Dr. James J. Lavender, ext. 4205
Superintendent of Schools*

*Mr. Jason Schimpf, ext. 4203
School Business Administrator*

TESTIMONY AS PROVIDED BY JASON SCHIMPF, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR, KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, ON JANUARY 27, 2017 BEFORE THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FUNDING FAIRNESS

Good morning Senators and thank you for hosting this event here at Kingsway. My name is Jason Schimpf and I am the Business Administrator for the Kingsway Regional School District. I have held this position since October of 2011 and have a total of sixteen years' experience in the field of public school administration.

As you all know, in 2008, the New Jersey Legislature enacted a new school funding formula, the School Funding Reform Act, or "SFRA." In 2009, the State Supreme Court found the SFRA constitutional, not just for students in the districts formerly known as Abbott, but for all students statewide. With that decision came two conditions in order for the SFRA to continue constitutionality. 1 – the formula must be fully funded for the first three years; and 2 – the formula must be reviewed to make sure it is functioning properly. Neither of these conditions were met and in May of 2011 the State Supreme Court ruled that the State had violated its Abbott directive after mass cuts to school funding in fiscal year 2011 and ordered the State to fully fund the formula in 2011-12. However, that ruling was limited to the 31 districts formerly known as Abbott districts and did not assist the non-Abbott districts that were underfunded, and in some cases severely.

The full funding of the SFRA, or lack thereof, was problem number one for school districts. In 2016-17 the SFRA was underfunded by approximately \$900 million. Since the inception of SFRA in 2008, the State has underfunded its schools by more than \$8 billion.

Problem number two was the inclusion of the "hold harmless" provision within the SFRA. In order to ensure that no district saw a decrease in State aid from their 2007-08 levels, the legislature amended the SFRA at the last minute to include a "hold harmless" provision. This

Home of the Dragons

provision was meant to be temporary in order to slowly bring the overfunded districts back down to 100% of SFRA funding over a period of five years. As you all know, this too has not happened and has created large inequities in school funding. In an Education Funding Report prepared by then Commissioner of Education, Christopher Cerf in 2012, when referring to Adjustment Aid he said, "It is a symbol of the old Trenton; a paean to the longstanding tradition of refusing to make hard choices even when hard choices are in order and failing to make hard choices will cost taxpayers greatly." And cost taxpayers it certainly has. The "hold harmless" provision also prevented districts with growing enrollments, like Kingsway, from receiving additional aid while holding districts with declining enrollments level. According to the Education Law Center, nearly \$567 million was allocated to districts in the form of adjustment aid in 2015-16 alone. Of that \$567 million, nearly \$300 million went to districts already spending above their adequacy levels. This is \$567 million in aid calculated outside of the SFRA and distributed to hundreds of school districts that are not entitled to those funds.

Problem number three is how the school aid is allocated amongst the State's school districts. In 2016-17, 212 school districts will receive more than 100% of their state aid. Conversely, 379 other districts will receive less than 100% of their state aid, with 239 of them receiving less than 70%.

The question that has to be asked is "why?" Why do the districts that have been overfunded for years continue to be held harmless when Kingsway, and many other districts, continue to be shortchanged? Kingsway has had to survive with less than its fair share of state aid each year for more than a decade. Enrollment continues to increase at a rate of approximately 5% each year. Kingsway's taxpayers already contribute more than their fair share as calculated by the SFRA and Kingsway will spend roughly \$9 million dollars below its adequacy budget in 2016-17, or less than \$3,500 per pupil than it should to provide a thorough and efficient education as calculated by the State's own formula. Kingsway is also the lowest spending 7-12 regional school district in the State of New Jersey. Why would reducing aid to those Districts that are overfunded, in a reasonable way, be any more catastrophic to them than what Kingsway has had endure?



We are doing our part. We have made it work, but we cannot stretch the dollar any further. Our resident taxpayers cannot afford anymore. Due to our growth we have had to expand our facilities and have taken on more than \$40 million in debt to do so. This has only exacerbated our funding struggles and continues to cripple our residents' ability to pay. The inequitable distribution of school aid has gone on for way too long. Our school district, and the many others that are underfunded, deserve their fair share.

The solution is simple and requires no additional legislation. The SFRA already exists and provides generous, overall funding to school districts. We are simply asking the Governor, Legislature, and Commissioner of Education to abide by it. Begin to ween the overfunded, over adequacy districts off of adjustment aid and reallocate those dollars to the underfunded districts. Of course, full funding of the SFRA is the ultimate goal, but, here at Kingsway, we understand budgetary constraints better than most and realize the State may not be able to add \$1 billion to school funding next year. Senate President Sweeney has already suggested allocating an additional \$100 million to school funding each year over the course of the next five years. Something the State has been able to do over the last several fiscal years. Those funds, coupled with the near \$600 million in adjustment aid, will get us to full SFRA funding. What could be more fair than all districts funded at 100% of SFRA?

Thank you for your time.



SWEDESBORO-WOOLWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Kristin P. O'Neil, Ed. D
Superintendent of Schools

Christopher J. DeStratis
School Business Administrator

January 27, 2017

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness,

My name is Dr. Kristin O'Neil, and I am the Superintendent of the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District. Joining me this morning is Mr. Christopher DeStratis, the Business Administrator, Mr. Scott Hogan, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Mr. Craig Frederick, the Board of Education President. The testimony that I am about to give is on behalf of the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District.

By now you are familiar with the history of underfunding for both Swedesboro and Woolwich as well as the significant tax burden placed on both communities. You are also familiar with the fact that the Swedesboro-Woolwich School District was known just a few years ago as the fastest growing school district in the entire Northeast.

As of today's date, our school district educationally supports 1,732 students. Currently, Swedesboro-Woolwich receives 55% of the full, uncapped SFRA funding, and we are currently underfunded a total of \$3,221 per child or a total of 5.6 million dollars. We are also 2.3 million dollars below adequacy.

However, I must note that I am extremely proud of our school district because even faced with these challenges we have managed to continue to provide a good educational program to all. Most recently, the District was commended by Ms. Avé Altersitz, the Gloucester County Executive Superintendent, for exceeding efficiency standards in many areas as compared to the state median:

- Support Service Costs
- Administrative Costs
- Operation and Maintenance of Plant Costs
- Students to Educational Support Personnel
- Students to Administrative Personnel
- Faculty to Administrative Personnel

However, due to the decreased streams of funding and the increasing expenditures, it has been recommended by the Gloucester County Educational Office that the District continue to increase the local tax levy by 2% and utilize all cap adjustments.

But - now is the time when we must ask - where does this end? Since 2001, the local school taxes have increased an overwhelming 270%, which doesn't even include Kingsway's similar increase. At the same time, state aid per pupil to Swedesboro-Woolwich is down by 19% in just 15 years.

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Superintendent of Schools

Christopher J. DeStratis
School Business Administrator

While financially doing our job and continuing to maintain a very low total budgetary cost per pupil, my greatest concern for our children focuses on the future. Based on communications with our local municipalities, we are preparing to face another wave of significant growth within the next few years. We are anticipating as many as 3,000 new homes. What concerns me most is that even today, with a relatively stabilized enrollment, and while maintaining the 7th lowest out of 56 (K - 6) school districts in total cost per pupil, we were faced with the decision to lay off four teachers this year to balance our district budget. This resulted in kindergarten class sizes increasing between 5 and 6 students per class.

Our District is beyond fortunate to have very dedicated and supportive teachers, administrators, and support staff members who find creative ways to make things work. We have found ways to offer the arts at the kindergarten level even though we do not have enough staff to offer formal music or art instruction to our 3, 4, 5, and 6 year olds.

We have found ways to offer gifted and talented, STEAM, and enrichment services to students beyond the school day and over the summer through parent funding. But again, with our local tax burden continuing to compound each year, our children and our families deserve better. We should be able to expand and fund these opportunities for our children without imposing an additional financial burden onto our families.

Although we are very grateful to the State of New Jersey for committing Supplemental Enrollment Growth Aid to our district several years ago, we implore you, the Legislators, to prioritize fair funding for all school districts throughout the state. We also urge you to impose no new legislation that would cost school districts additional monies until this problem is resolved. We just don't have it. The children of New Jersey didn't create this problem, but now you have an opportunity to correct it.

I sincerely thank you for your time, and I thank you for listening to our concerns this morning.

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**Testimony Before the New Jersey Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness
Kingsway Regional High School, Cafeteria East
January 27, 2017**

By Steven Robbins, Representative, Cherry Hill Parents for Fair Funding

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Select Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Steve Robbins, and I am testifying on behalf of the Cherry Hill Parents for Fair Funding committee. My purpose for testifying here today is to inform you of the existence of our group, who we are, our goals, and what you can expect from us in the future.

The committee was formed in 2013 by a group of parents responding to school officials' call for citizen action. They reported that our state legislators were persuaded more by regular citizens rather than by the same school officials year after year. All the while these same legislators acknowledged the existence of Cherry Hill's state funding deficit, both in absolute terms under SFRA and comparatively with similar districts.

What started as a small group of parents culled from Cherry Hill school PTAs has now grown to include parent representatives from the bulk of Cherry Hill's 19 schools, plus school officials, school board members, district school union officials and other concerned Cherry Hill citizens. The committee's Facebook page has over 700 followers and is growing.

The purpose of the committee is to give voice to Cherry Hill parents and voters who are concerned about an unfair school funding system that is opaque, inconsistent and in some cases punitive; and about the continued lack of action to remedy this situation by both the legislative and executive branches.

The committee's goals are simple: to recover the millions of Cherry Hill taxpayer dollars confiscated by the state in 2010; to recover the tens of millions in funds Cherry Hill was entitled to but did not receive under SFRA since its enactment; and to seek a fair funding system that is transparent, accurately reflective of a district's actual student makeup and consistently applied across all districts.

The committee intends to accomplish these goals by using grassroots lobbying, public engagement and education, and the active support of candidates for public office that further the committee's goals.

Committee representatives have already met on more than one occasion with Cherry Hill's state and local elected officials, as well as representatives from the NJ Department of Education's budget office. These meetings were constructive and laid the foundation for further discussions to achieve a fair and equitable funding system.

In the days ahead, the committee intends to extend its outreach both within the district and with outside leaders to attain the goals of the committee. The committee is working on other means of engagement beyond the grassroots lobbying I've discussed here today. We intend to partner with similar grassroots organizations across the state. Together, we will engage in coordinated direct lobbying and direct support to candidates, regardless of party affiliation or incumbency, who will make the committee's goals a part of their platform and who have a genuine willingness to make it happen.

Thank you again for allowing us to testify.

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Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness Testimony

January 27, 2016

Presented by Michael Piper of Our Fair Share

Senate President Sweeney and distinguished members of this Committee I thank you for allowing my testimony today. My name is Michael Piper I am a married father of three from Delran NJ and Co-Founder of the parent group OurFairShare. Which is a group of parents from underfunded districts across the state fighting for funding fairness. Recently I had the pleasure of seeing a presentation by the NJ Association of School Administrators and have included some of their information in my testimony.

By now, we should all know the basics of the SFRA. We should all know that it is currently underfunded by 1.4 billion dollars on an annual basis. About \$600 million was removed from SFRA funding to provide state aid outside the formula to keep every district at FY08 aid levels. This over funds some districts at the expense of others, largely in the form of Adjustment Aid.

We have never fully funded the formula, and are currently funding at approx 85%. Having never fully funded the formula we have short changed school districts almost 10 billion dollars. Let me say that again 10 billion dollars. As I said earlier approx 600 million dollars is removed every year as Adjustment Aid. This has continued the same way for 9 years with no adjustment to a district's economic realities or to changing demographics. Rising salaries and health insurance costs are crippling districts yet revenue remains flat.

In Fiscal year 17, 212 districts received more than 100% of their aid as required under SFRA while 379 districts receive less than 100% of the aid they should receive, and yet another 239 districts receive less than 70%. This results in higher property taxes and thus has taxpayers from districts all over the state paying more than their fair share of taxes. The percentage of SFRA aid the State distributes to school districts ranges from a low of 10% to a high of 1,033%.

While I sit here and think about the nearly 90 million dollars, yes, I said 90 million my school district has been shorted per the SFRA since 2008. I then think to myself how our legislators are too busy worrying about declawing cats than getting to the bottom of a problem that has plagued this state for 40 years. A problem that plagues over 500 school districts across the State.

As legislatures of this state it is your duty to take swift action to fix the education funding system in this state. When I say, swift I mean immediate action so that students, taxpayers and school districts have the burdens caused by your inaction eased. It is completely unfathomable that a school district in this state receives 10% of its mandated aid and another receives 1033%.

I implore you to take swift and immediate action to fix this issue. I testified in front of both the Assembly and Senate Budget Committees last year. Yet I sit here today and nothing has changed. Senator Sweeney has put forth a plan which we believe is the only feasible plan on the table. Please set aside party lines and, work together to make this reform a reality. We've seen how fast our legislators can act when they want to. There's been enough discussions, enough research, enough excuses. Too much time has passed to allow this to continue. It's hard, we get it. But that is exactly what you were sent here to do - tackle the hard issues and get results. Underfunded districts needs results, and they need them now...not 9 years from now. I thank you for this opportunity and your service to the taxpayers of NJ. I will be happy to answer any questions.

**SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE HEARING ON SCHOOL FUNDING
KINGSWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 27, 2017**

Good Morning and thank you for allowing me to speak today. I am the business administrator for Washington Township Public Schools. During my tenure, there has been the Quality Education Act (QEA) and the amendment, the Comprehensive Educational Improvement Financing Act (CEIFA), the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) and various adjustments to the state budget to correct or modify each.

Each of these formulas, when I read them, appeared to be equitable. I could understand why the legislature would vote for them. However, the problems seemed to occur in the implementation of the laws. Each of these formulas had a "Hold Harmless" provision; and to the best of my knowledge, none of these formulas have ever been fully funded. These Hold Harmless provisions were put in place so that no school district would feel the devastating effects of the change.

Our district experienced significant growth in the 1990s and early 2000s. Aid was frozen in a few of those years also. The difference in the formulas during our growth years to now is that the burden clearly was placed on the local tax levy. Caps were on total expenditures. The Tax Levy was the total expenditures minus your State Aid and Other revenue. There were allowable tax Cap adjustments for growth – increasing the levy.

The "Ability to Pay" has been a common theme in these formulas; however, ascertaining that amount has always had problems. The first year of CEIFA, zip codes were used to determine this factor, and our Township has six different zip codes. A box was placed on tax returns to help identify the municipality residency. Our Township is very similar to the surrounding towns; however, we do have a small percentage of extremely wealthy households which we believe distorted this calculation. These formulas gave state funds which allowed for the creation of full-day kindergarten and preschool programs--not only for the programs, but also for the construction of facilities to house these programs. Our district was apparently too wealthy for this aid. Just this school year 2016-17, we finally had space to house a full-day kindergarten program. We redistricted our students and our resources to implement such a program. This now places us on a more competitive level with our surrounding communities who have had this program for years. A regular education preschool program will have to wait.

During our growth years, we had Senator Matheson's and Assemblyman Geist's office on speed dial. We lobbied the same way as the current districts that are now feeling the pain with this formula. On several occurrences, the adjustments that we lobbied for actually occurred after our need; and other districts benefited from them. During a few of those years the Debt Service Aid of 46 percent was reduced significantly – resulting in the local taxpayers footing the bill. The current formula has accomplished the task of controlling the rise of the local tax levies. However, not funding the formula at 100 percent has caused problems for districts experiencing significant growth.

The current formula hurts all districts with respect to their infrastructure, as all capital projects must be done within the 2 percent tax levy cap. Our district is in immediate need of two roofs – we received estimates of \$1.7 million and \$2.1 million, respectively. These two roofs are

difficult to fit into the cap. The SDA grants have been a Godsend, but funding is not on an annual basis. I always pray that I haven't started a project before funding comes through. Districts that had "Other Revenues" must find a way to replace them each year or risk cutting programs to balance their budget.

In March of 2009, State Aid allocations were given to school districts indicating their State Aid allocation for the ensuing 2009-2010 school year. The following summer we were notified that a significant amount of the State Aid we were getting was not State Aid but Federal Aid. Funding for the subsequent year (2010-2011) was reduced as a result of that change in source. Washington Township was cut by \$6.5 million, and \$1.3 million of fund balance and capital reserve was taken to balance the state's budget--a total hit of \$7.8 million. Programs that took a decade to build were eliminated overnight. Significant program reductions consisted of music, art, and the gifted and talented program, to name a few. Every school district in the state felt this pain.

Declining enrollment does not allow you to adjust your budget proportionately. If you have a decrease of 100 students, you can't just cut four teachers. If the students were in the same grade, then maybe you could. But losing ten students a grade level does not result in that. If you are down 500 students over 5 years should you close a school? It can't happen when you have to have the space mandated by code to house them. The overhead remains – utilities, insurance, maintenance, etc.

We agree that relief from the constraints of the current formula is needed for some districts. Funding the formula at 100 percent would be ideal for everyone. Absent that, reallocating the current formula without looking at the history of all the districts would fix the problems in one area but would be devastating to others. As noted above, our district did have problems with the formula at the time of our growth years; and taxpayers were burdened with additional taxes. Yet we could not house or fund programs such as full-day kindergarten or a preschool program; which has been proven to increase student achievement.

You have a daunting task before you. We ask that you look at the totality of the decisions you make and what the effect of a reduction of aid will be to those districts. Will it accomplish the goal of "*A New Formula for Success – All Children, All Communities?*"

Presented by: Margaret F. Meehan, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Washington Township Public Schools, Gloucester County
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Philip J. Guenther, Ed.D.
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ATLANTIC COUNTY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board Secretary
Business Administrator
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Senate School Funding Hearing Testimony for Philip Guenther January 27, 2017

Senator Sweeney and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Philip Guenther and I am the superintendent of Atlantic County Vocational School District. I would like to commend the Senate President for recognizing the unmet financial needs of many school districts throughout New Jersey, and for your continued focus on restoring a more equitable distribution of state aid that recognizes enrollment growth and the changing demographics and economics in school districts throughout the state.

Our district has experienced tremendous growth since the implementation of the School Funding Reform Act. We have had an increase in enrollment of 164% since the 2009-2010 school year. At the same time, the amount of state aid we receive has actually decreased by almost \$93,000 over the past seven years. By any measure, our district is severely underfunded.

Specifically, our district received \$3,793,793 in state aid in 2009 for 566 students and \$3,700,925 in 2016 for 1494 students

This unprecedented increase in enrollment was largely the result of Atlantic County's decision to transition our county vocational school from a mix of full-time and shared-time programs to a comprehensive full-time program that would respond to overwhelming demand for career and technical education in our county.

This transition required a \$40 million expansion and renovation of our facility in 2009, and the addition of new career and academic programs and teachers, as well as the support services required for a full-time high school.

We began planning for this many years before the expansion became a reality. We had to gain a consensus in the county, plan the facility and then complete construction. All of the budget and planning that went into this process made the reasonable assumption that state aid would keep pace with enrollment growth as dictated by the School Funding Reform Act.



Unfortunately, because the law was not funded, we became a victim of our own success. Our enrollment more than doubled, while state aid did not follow these additional students to our district.

At the same time, Atlantic County has undergone extreme fiscal challenges. With the closing of five casinos, the industry experienced massive job losses, an unprecedented decline in revenue, forcing further budget shortfalls, and a precipitous decline in county ratables.

The combined impact of the loss of approximately 13,000 casino jobs, as well as the highest home foreclosure rate in the country, and several successful casino tax appeals caused Atlantic County's ratable base to decline by about 34%, from \$56,189,528,720 in 2009 to \$36,656,261,756 in 2016.

Because of this new financial reality facing Atlantic County, it has been difficult for our freeholders to increase their contribution to our operating budget beyond their generous support for our facility expansion. Our county tax levy support has grown by 3.5% over the last seven years -- an average annual increase of .5%.

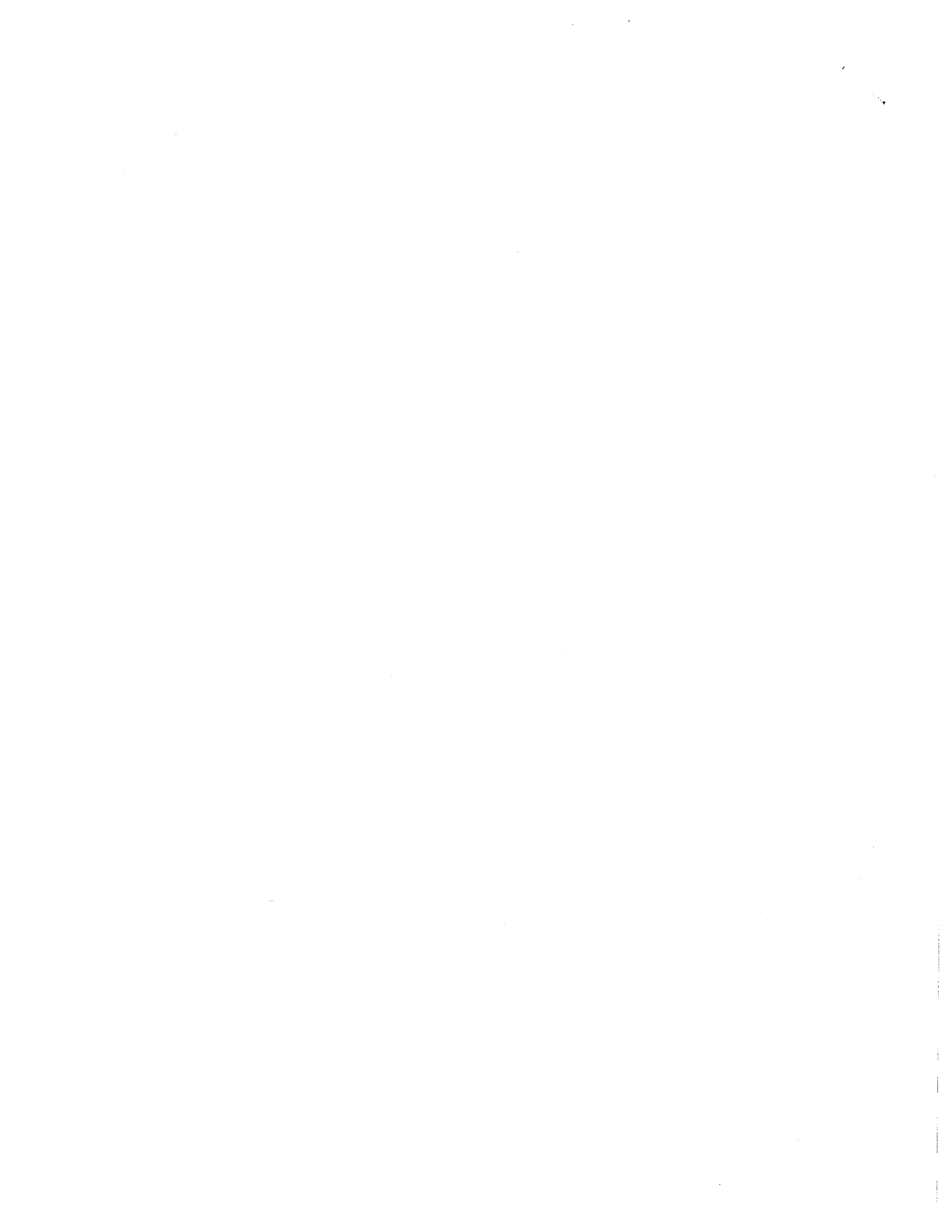
My school district had to make some very difficult decisions, including raising the local share our sending districts contribute, in the form of tuition. We also had to delay plans to start new career programs in high demand fields. We are simply not able to accommodate all of the students in the county who wish to come to our school because of the funding shortfall. Every year, the number of applications for our programs increases and every year we have to turn down more and more students as we typically receive approximately 1000 applications and are only able to accept less than half of the applicants.

The closure and reduction in workforce in the casino industry has resulted in high unemployment and overall economic decline for Atlantic County residents. Workforce development and opportunities for high school students and adults to develop career skills are critically important to keep residents employed and re-boot the county's economy.

The Atlantic County Institute of Technology offers a wide range of career programs including health sciences, information technology, culinary arts, building technology, automotive, and engineering. This year, thanks to a partnership grant authorized by the Legislature, we launched an aviation studies program in partnership with Atlantic Cape Community College and the FAA, to meet the burgeoning demand for aviation technicians in our county.

But our ability to keep pace with industry demands, support economic growth, and prepare our students for the jobs of tomorrow is dependent on sufficient resources for our academic and career programs.

In short, Atlantic County Vocational School District is suffering because of stagnant state aid and high enrollment growth. We appreciate that the Legislature is committed to finding solutions to



the funding problems. We know that it is not easy given the state's current fiscal situation and we applaud the effort you are making to engage stakeholders and to consider any and all possible solutions.

As you review options for short- and long-term adjustments to the School Funding Reform Act, we ask you to give careful consideration to:

- fast-growing districts like mine, that have experienced not only enrollment growth, but also a declining ratable base to support our schools; and also to
- county vocational-technical school districts throughout the state, which depend upon their counties for funding and lack the ability to increase their local tax levy to make up for any aid losses or address emerging needs.

Thank you for your commitment to this issue and for the opportunity to speak today.

Paulsboro Public Schools

Administration Building, 662 North Delaware Street, Paulsboro, NJ 08066
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Dr. Laurie Bandlow, Superintendent

January 27, 2017

Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness
State House Annex
PO Box 068
Trenton, NJ 08625-0068

Honorable Stephen M. Sweeny, Chair, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding hearings on school funding. We have reached a crisis stage in this state where funding for schools has not kept up with increased costs, increased enrollment, and changing demographics. My name is Dr. Laurie Bandlow, and I serve the Paulsboro Public Schools as their Superintendent. I am here today on behalf of the students and families of Paulsboro to applaud your efforts in this matter and to emphasize how serious the financial condition of communities like Paulsboro has become.

I understand that a proposal for radically changing school funding is being considered by Governor Christie. Please know that the proposed changes to the school aid formula that the Governor has proposed would deprive children in communities like ours of 30% to 60% of the funds necessary to operate schools. Such a proposal would take resources away from children in Paulsboro who have the greatest needs.

Wealthy communities like Ridgewood and Summit would see huge windfalls under that plan. Reductions in state aid would take away from children of poverty funds that pay for essentials such as textbooks and e-books, food, and counseling services. For the wealthy communities that might benefit from this windfall, we understand that they would be expected to use these funds to reduce taxes. While that may be a worthy purpose under some conditions, it is not appropriate at the expense of low income families and communities.

Paulsboro today is a multicultural, multi-generational village where family and diversity are celebrated. "Paulsboro Pride" is not just a saying; it is a way of life. Though we in Paulsboro are not wealthy, we are very rich in pride, heritage, and tradition. Our diverse students, some 80% of which live in poverty, take great pride in their schools and community, too. They respect and accept one another. Every child is welcome and knows it. This unique culture of acceptance and mutual respect has been created by school and community leaders over generations, and reinforced by programs like Big Brothers,

Big Sisters, and Students United for Respect and Equality (S.U.R.E). It is precisely because of this supportive climate that my son Chris chose to attend Paulsboro High School.

It is in this spirit that I speak to you as school superintendent and as the parent of a Paulsboro High School student.

I also wish to speak on behalf of early childhood education. We operate an Early Childhood Learning Center that provides vital services to the children of poverty. Many of our children do not have books in their home, and many parents lack the resources to support learning at home. Every Friday, some of our teachers gather food to send home with students that we know may not otherwise have anything to eat until they return to school on the following Monday. This is the reality that cannot be ignored. Paulsboro could not offer this important service without the state grant that supports it.

The School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) of 2008 has been criticized by some for failing to serve the needs of New Jersey's school children. But the only problem with SFRA is that the State of New Jersey has never funded it adequately. If the law has shortcomings, they would only be made worse by taking money away from high poverty districts.

I respectfully ask that you address the lack of funding that is pushing the Paulsboro Schools and others similarly situated to a fiscal crisis. This cannot wait.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Bandlow".

Dr. Laurie Bandlow, Superintendent of Schools
Paulsboro School District

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January 27, 2017

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee for coming to Gloucester County for this hearing. My purpose in coming today is to share my perspective on the current school funding debate, and to ask for your careful consideration of the actions that may ultimately be taken.

I am the Superintendent of Schools in Pitman, a community just a short distance from here; my school district serves almost 1,500 students in five schools from grades Pre-K through 12, and has a long standing reputation of providing an exceptional educational experience for our students.

In the discourse regarding school funding and the various data points that have been shared over the past 12-18 months, my district might be regarded as one of the lucky ones – recent numbers suggest that our funding levels sit just above 100% of the 2008 formula. As such, I'm here to represent the side of this issue which has concerns about the implementation of any plan to reform the current situation through significant adjustments in state support. Depending on which numbers you look at, my district stands to lose anywhere from a modest amount up to close to 20% of its state aid under a plan to phase out. While I can appreciate the concerns of school districts that have not received state funding to which they and their students may be entitled, my concern lies in any "solution" that has a dramatically negative impact on the students and the community that I serve.

I appreciate and understand the issue of fairness and equity that are central to these deliberations. I merely ask that lawmakers avoid a "one size fits all" approach to a more equitable distribution of limited state funds. The different circumstances of various communities demands a more nuanced evaluation and implementation. For example, the community of Pitman continues to suffer the negative impact of the closing of the Sony plant several years ago. What had once been the largest employer and taxpayer in the town now sits nearly empty and underutilized. The property, once valued at \$18 million dollars, is now listed with an assessed value of \$3 million dollars; as a result, the burden of paying the costs of providing municipal services and running the public schools have been dramatically shifted to homeowners. To compound this problem by significantly reducing state support to the school district would fundamentally impact the quality of education of children in my community.

To be clear, I am not opposed to a resolution to the concerns of underfunded school districts; those districts, like mine, should be funded at 100% of the formula. My primary concern is to ensure that my district is fully funded as well, and that any necessary adjustments are made in a thoughtful and deliberate way that considers the unique challenges faced by each community and the impact that those adjustments would have on those children. I am aware that it has been proposed to add additional money in funding as part of concurrent adjustments in aid to districts; short of that funding materializing, however, I worry that across the board cuts in aid will pit school districts and communities against one another in a battle for a limited pool of funds.

Again, thank you for allowing me to speak at this hearing today.

Building on our unique traditions, the mission of the Pitman School District, in partnership with families and our community, is to educate all students through exceptional learning experiences to be discerning, ethical, confident citizens. It is the expectation of this school district that all pupils achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels.

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KINGSWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Committed to Excellence

*Craig S. Stephenson, Ext. 4208
High School Principal*

*Lauren N. Kerr, Ext. 4299
Assistant Principal, Grade 9*

*Monique M. Stowman-Burke, Ext. 4314
Assistant Principal, Grade 11*

*Michael Beirao, Ext. 4299
Assistant Principal, Grade 10*

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Assistant Principal, Grade 12*

Public Hearing before NJ Senate Select Committee on School Funding

January 27, 2017

Testimony delivered by Craig Stephenson

I thank the committee for the opportunity to speak about this important issue that is dramatically impacting children, families, and taxpayers within our communities. My name is Craig Stephenson, and I am a resident of East Greenwich Twp. as well as the principal of Kingsway Regional High School.

Many within our communities and schools have worked for a decade to draw attention to this critical issue; we are cautiously optimistic that we are now on the pathway to finally addressing inequities in school funding.

I wish to focus my testimony today on the impact of unfair funding practices from the perspective of an East Greenwich resident, but I confess that the insight I have as principal of this high school assists me in appreciating how dire this situation is for both our current and future students. We certainly need action now.

My wife and I both worked as teachers at Kingsway Regional High School for 8 years before moving into East Greenwich. Like many of our friends and fellow East Greenwich residents, we moved here because it is a great community with excellent schools.

The schools have been and continue to live up to our expectations, but my position as principal here offers me a unique insight. I can see the precipice at which we are now standing, and I know that if grossly inequitable funding practices are not addressed now, our children will suffer. Given our appreciation of the current and future impact of decade-long unfair funding practices, my wife and I, both employees of Kingsway – a wonderful school – with two children currently at the Samuel Mickle School! – another wonderful school - have actually had recent discussions about whether or not we made the right choice moving into this community – a community we and our children love.

We moved into East Greenwich in 2009. Like so many of my fellow East Greenwich residents, our property taxes have increased at a seemingly exponential rate since that time. I understand why this is the case. As state aid is distributed, the two most underfunded school districts in

Gloucester County are Kingsway Regional and East Greenwich Twp. Kingsway receives 46% of the state aid it should receive while East Greenwich receives 49%. If Kingsway were funded at 100% of the state's funding formula, the district would receive an additional \$11.6 million dollars in state aid in 2017 alone. I believe East Greenwich School District is underfunded in the neighborhood of \$3.5 million dollars.

On behalf of taxpayers, we are angry, because years of inequitable funding practices by the state has placed an inordinate burden for funding our school districts on us, the local taxpayers. State funding that should be provided to Kingsway, East Greenwich, and other underfunded districts throughout the state has instead been sent to a number of school districts who actually receive more than what the established funding formula indicates they should receive.

I know my wife and I are not alone in our frustration. Conversations with friends and with parents of children in the East Greenwich schools and/or Kingsway reveal that many are having the same discussions. A Kingsway parent recently told me that her family is moving simply because they can no longer afford to live here.

As strictly a parent with children in our school districts, I am even more angered and frustrated. While I don't possess the insider knowledge of East Greenwich Schools, I can say that my children continue to have a very positive experience and it certainly seems from a parent perspective that they are providing a high quality education and are doing so in a fiscally responsible manner. I can tell you that at Kingsway we have worked very hard to stretch every dollar and have implemented a number of shared services agreements as part of this effort. I am proud of the product we deliver, and the fiscally responsible manner in which we do so. Kingsway is a great place. I believe our kids have an excellent experience here. However, we at Kingsway have officially reached the tipping point. We can no longer support the demands of a growing district and as we attempt to address a significant budget deficit, we are facing layoffs and program cuts in an already lean district that is likely to see a 5% increase in enrollment next year. This will have a significant impact on our students, and will reduce the programs they will have access to. As a parent, the thought that our own kids will be at a disadvantage because they do not have access to the same opportunities that many other students have throughout the state is infuriating.

I am encouraged that the Senate Select Committee is holding this hearing at Kingsway. Inequitable funding can no longer be ignored by our state. Your presence here is an indication that we are not being ignored, but your presence alone is not enough.

On behalf of my fellow East Greenwich residents and parents, we need action and we need it now. Our children deserve the same opportunities that other children throughout the state are afforded. Unless action is taken to ensure our schools are funded equitably, our students will be at an extreme disadvantage, and I believe I speak for all of the parents of East Greenwich and all of the Kingsway sending districts when I say that this is simply unacceptable.

Again, thank you for this opportunity, thank you for your attention to this matter, and as our elected officials, we trust that you will not rest until this gross inequity is rectified.

Testimony of Patricia L. Haney, Superintendent
Logan Township School District
Gloucester County
January 27, 2017

Good morning Mr. President and members of the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Issues. I am Patricia Haney, Superintendent of the Logan Township School District, a PreK-12 district that sends a majority of our resident high school students to Kingsway Regional School District.

I am here to provide testimony today about the effects that the Senate proposed funding formula would have on our district. I decided to provide this testimony after reading the Philadelphia Inquirer article, written by Maddie Hanna dated Monday, January 23rd, which stated that "Senate President Stephen Sweeney...wants to start drawing down aid from districts he says are **overfunded...**"

As a fellow superintendent I am here not to speak against any district who is labeled as underfunded, or against a district who is labeled as being overfunded or receiving adjustment aid. Actually, I support the aspect of Senator Sweeney's proposal to allow for greater aid increases for growing districts. I am also pleased to learn that this Select Committee is considering special education costs as part of this proposed legislation. Considering both growth and the cost of special education makes sense to me as a superintendent.

I am here to share with you the perspective of a superintendent whose district has been labeled as overfunded. Logan Township School District does **NOT** have an **overabundance** of resources. We are a school district that focuses on best practice. We consider ourselves to be an efficiently-run district, considerate of our taxpayers, while striving to provide a 21st century learning environment for all of our economically-diverse students, while also addressing the needs of our special education population as well as our gifted population. In Logan, providing a 21st century learning environment includes having a STEM program, a one-to-one electronic device initiative, appropriate class size, well-maintained buildings and grounds and high PARCC state assessment scores in both English Language Arts and Math. These are the types of programs which might need to be cut if state funding is significantly reduced as proposed by this funding formula.

These successes are not easily attained. Approximately 20 percent of our student population is considered economically disadvantaged while approximately 15% have special needs. Over the years, we have expanded the continuum of services provided to our Special Ed population and our at-risk student population while expanding our counseling services for all grade levels of students. We now stand ready to expand the much-needed services available to our Special Education high school students (up to age 21) who presently receive services out-of-district. Our Board of Education is beginning to look at the possible expansion of Special Services by adding an alternative high school program for Special Needs resident students. This exciting opportunity

is something which most districts only dream of being able to provide. However, if the senate proposed funding formula is approved, this dream would never become a reality for this at-risk student population.

There are a variety of ways Logan stands to lose money if this plan is adopted. As a PreK to Grade 12 District we are financially responsible for all of our high school resident students. Our budget includes the cost of tuition and transportation for these students. The proposed senate funding formula will most likely negatively impact Logan **twice** due to the fact that our high school tuition is included within our budget. First, Logan is set to receive reduced state aid of approximately \$190,000 for the next five years, per our understanding of Senator Sweeney's funding formula plan. Kingsway is set to receive additional state aid, per this same Senate funding formula, resulting in an increase in Kingsway's per pupil cost. As a result, Logan will see a significant increase in our high school tuition cost for the resident high school students we send to Kingsway, while also suffering from a reduction in our state aid. To give you some perspective behind these figures, we currently send approximately 270 students to Kingsway. If Kingsway's tuition were to increase by \$1,000 per student, which it could easily do, our budget would have to absorb an increase of \$270,000 at the same time we experience a reduction in our state aid of approximately \$190,000 (and that is only for the first of five proposed years of state aid cuts!) We are asking that you consider this as you finalize your plan.

We agree with the NJEA when they state this plan is "divisive"; it pits one district against another. As a neighboring superintendent who has respect for the job Kingsway's educators are doing each and every day for all students, including Logan resident high school students, I will not speak against Kingsway's need to be recognized for its growing population with additional aid. Rather, I support this request and need. Two possible ideas are: to allow districts like ours to have a cap adjustment for tuition increases over 2%; or, to cap the annual tuition increase billed by receiving districts to sending districts. We realize that both of these proposed solutions will impact local taxpayers.

We are not ignoring the fact that the state funding formula needs to be fixed. It took 8 years to create this problem, we would ask consideration of solving the problem at least over an equal number of years. Our suggestion is not to rush.

We hope to be kept abreast of ongoing findings and work of this committee. We are very interested in staying involved and being available to answer more in-depth questions on future occasions. At the beginning of my statement, I spoke of the educational environment provided in our district schools. I invite each member of this panel to visit our district to see a successful 21st century learning institution so you can experience first hand the types of programs which stand to be lost, and subsequent staff layoffs which would follow, if this proposed plan takes effect.

**NJPSA Testimony before the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness
January 27, 2017**

Good morning President Sweeney, Vice Chairman Pennacchio, and members of the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness. I am here today representing the perspective of New Jersey's building based leadership, the principals, assistant principals and supervisory employees who lead in our public schools across New Jersey. Our association represents members in all type of school districts – former Abbotts, RIM districts, middle income districts and higher wealth communities. As a result, **NJPSA supports a funding formula and state budget that will meet the needs of ALL students no matter where they live and what unique educational needs they bring to the schoolhouse door.**

I must begin by thanking you Senate President Sweeney and the members of this committee for your collective commitment and proactive leadership in addressing an issue that is on the mind of every educator, board of education member, and parent in our state, particularly at this time of year - the state funding of our public schools. As we begin a new calendar year, educational leaders at the school and district level are well underway in their local budget processes and are anxiously awaiting word on their state aid figures for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

As building level leaders, we understand first-hand the critical importance of school funding as the foundational element for the quality and breadth of educational programs and services we can offer our students. Funding impacts all we do - from the attraction and retention of high quality staff, to the breadth of our curriculum and availability of advanced course offerings, to the size of our classes, to our students' access to technology, to the health and wellness options we can offer, and even the array of offered extracurricular activities which often serve as a unique learning setting and the motivation for students to stay in school.

We also understand that funding must be based upon the unique needs of the students we serve. The 70,000 students who arrive at New Jersey schools each day not speaking our language require extra instructional supports and services to succeed. Students who live in poverty, similarly, bring a whole host of specialized needs that schools must address to help them succeed at learning. These supports can include the provision of meals, critical early learning opportunities or focused instructional supports in our classrooms. Students with disabilities also require individualized learning plans which detail their specific instructional supports needed for successful learning.

The SFRA Formula

Fortunately, the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) was developed in recognition of this fact. The formula includes both a 'base cost' or the per pupil amount necessary to support the core curriculum program for every student regardless of need as well as extra funding to support programs for poor (at-risk) students, limited-English proficient (LEP) students, and students with disabilities, regardless of where those students live. These extra funds are calculated as a percentage of the base cost, called a "weight." Under the SFRA, every district has a "weighted student enrollment," where students are counted for purposes of generating state and local revenue

using the base cost plus the weights reflecting unique student needs. This process helps ensure that every district's state funding is based on the individual needs of its students in conjunction with each local communities' economic status and ability to provide for its students.

The formula also established an "adequacy budget" or level of funding which reflects the core costs of providing the programs and services constitutionally mandated by our State Constitution to meet the educational needs of every student. The SFRA funding levels and weights were wisely developed in consultation with professional educators and experts, including our members, who provided input on exactly what resources and staffing were needed at all school levels to meet constitutional standards. The Court approved SFRA formula was also designed to address funding inequities and the corollary learning gaps that result, by provisions that seek to move all districts toward an education "adequacy" level over time (statutorily over a five year period.) The impact of these provisions depended on a district's status either above, at or below adequacy.

Specifically, in order to ease the transition for districts that would receive less state aid under the SFRA (because they were over adequacy), the formula included "adjustment aid" to hold districts harmless at pre-SFRA state aid levels. Under the law, districts receive adjustment aid if their 2008-09 SFRA state aid allocation was less than their state aid level in 2007-08. This was meant to ensure that these districts didn't experience a huge drop off in funding as the State transitioned to the formula. But, adjustment aid was intended to steadily decrease over time (5 year period). Districts receiving adjustment aid would be flat-funded until their adequacy budgets grew to the point where regular/other aid replaced adjustment aid.

Funding Reality- SFRA Formula Ignored and Underfunded

In practice, the goals of the SFRA funding formula have not been met because the State has failed to fund schools according to the formula for the past 7 years. The first year following the Legislature's 2008 enactment of the law is the **only year** the statute was fully funded. Since that time, schools have faced a \$1 billion cut in funding in 2010-11 (5% cut across all districts) and essentially flat funding in every fiscal year since.

Due to the fact that the formula has not been run or funded over the past 7 years, the SFRA categories through which districts receive traditional aid have been "frozen". Given this issue, the number of districts who receive funding through adjustment aid has not decreased as intended. In fact, many of these districts operate with lean budgets that rely of this form of aid. Additionally, demographic and enrollment shifts that would have been addressed by running the formula did not occur leaving some districts underfunded for the students they serve and others overfunded.

If the State had funded schools according to the SFRA formula, districts below adequacy would have had their funding levels rise to the adequacy level by now. Similarly, districts who spent above adequacy would have moved toward the adequacy funding level but been protected from dramatic funding drops through the temporary phase- out mechanism of adjustment aid.

Impact on Districts

So, what are the effects of the State's failure to implement the SFRA?

1. Districts have been effectively "frozen in time" when it comes to their State funding levels, and in terms of their status in relationship to their adequacy budgets regardless of student enrollment changes, changes in community wealth, rising costs in nearly all aspects of school budgets and changing student needs. This fact

has also led to a rising perception of unfairness among districts. Districts have taken significant steps to reduce costs wherever possible by sharing services, eliminating programs and postponing plans for important instructional programs like full day kindergarten.

2. Due to multiple years of flat funding, districts and local taxpayers have been forced to shoulder the burden of rising costs in education at the local level within the confines of a restricted ability to raise local revenues (the statutory 2 percent tax levy cap). The result has been a narrowing of programs offered and hiring restrictions in some districts, especially low wealth/low spending districts who are trapped by the tax levy cap at below adequacy levels. In about 200 districts, local taxpayers have borne the brunt of the state funding shortfall through higher property taxes in an effort to maintain quality programs. These outcomes have an impact not only on the quality of education we provide, but also on the economic life of New Jersey citizens.

3. If the current practice of underfunding continues, these issues will only grow with the end result a whittling away of school quality in New Jersey schools. In the view of New Jersey's principals and supervisors, such a practice will lead to:

- A narrowing of our curriculum at a time when our world economy demands the best preparation of our students for college and career;
- A significant restriction in the ability of our public schools to attract the best and brightest to teach our students;
- A retraction, not expansion, of research-proven programs like early childhood learning opportunities for students at risk;
- A real reduction of much-needed health, counseling and wellness programs in our schools;
- Class size increases; and
- New barriers to our members' ability to meet the unique learning needs of all of the students in their schools.

For these reasons, NJPSA welcomes the Legislature's attention to this critical issue. Although the term 'funding fairness' has been bandied about a lot lately, we know from practical experience that one size (or funding level) does not fit all when it comes to educating our students. NJPSA welcomes the conversations ahead and supports the development of a plan to begin implementation of the SFRA, even on a phased in basis, to base state aid on the SFRA formula and allow it to work towards its statutory goals.

We recognize that New Jersey is facing new revenue shortfalls and competing budget concerns. However, the time has come to commit to reliance on the Court-approved SFRA for funding distribution, to seek additional revenue sources, to loosen overly restrictive caps on districts to provide relief and to prioritize our children's education as a State investment in our future.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to New Jersey's school children.

**Testimony of Nicole Moore before the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Issues
Friday, January 27, 2017**

Good Morning. Thank you for this opportunity to share the impact that a loss in school funding has had in my district. My name is Nicole Moore. I am the Principal of Indian Mills Schools in Shamong.

Shamong is a small district with two schools and a little over 800 students. We are a rural suburban community in Burlington County. Because we do not receive a whole lot in state aid our loss may not be considered 'extraordinary' by some. That is not to say that it is not impactful to the students we serve, however.

As a district we have had to sustain cuts year after year since 2009 making even a 'modest' cut in state aid significant over time. Last year alone we lost \$81,000. Capitalize that loss over the last 9 years and frankly, the impacts become very real and harmful to the students we serve.

Our mantra has been 'do more with less.' We continue to dip deeper and deeper into what reserves we have and have implemented a freeze on spending. As for facilities, we piece-meal projects, only doing a portion per year or what the budget could handle. Without the limited Schools Development Authority (SDA) funding we received we would not have been able to complete critical security upgrades in our buildings. Let me be clear – these years of 'flat budgets' have actually meant operating at a budget deficit. If we had not used reserves and frozen spending we would have gone over the allowable 2 percent property tax levy cap just based on increases in health costs alone. We have no fat left.

I am thankful that my Board has worked incredibly hard with the Administration to ensure that we don't have to limit instructional programs or extra-curricular activities. We had the discussion but with their support we did not yet exercise this option. I do not know if we will be able to continue, however, if we do not see some relief in the near future.

Like my fellow speakers, the way special education is funded via a census based approach is a problem. The percentage of current funding (16 percent) does not equate with the needs of the students in our district. We have to "rob" from other accounts to ensure that the needs of the students are met. In addition, that number continues to increase. In 2016/17, more than 18 students enrolled with special needs, adding to the deficit in funding the State provides. Similarly, we do have students with extraordinary educational needs. In 2016/17 that equated to \$215,396 in cost that as a district we were required to absorb and fund from the general ed program (Shamong received approximately \$12,000). This is a critical problem that is not going away. We have a duty to educate every student, regardless of their situation, and it is getting increasingly hard to ensure we are meeting the needs of all students.

I understand the difficult task before you. It is echoed in every district annually. I see the strain on the faces of my Superintendent, BA, and school board. We need your help to 'right the ship' and get back to formula aid that recognizes the needs of students more acutely and funds them. We urge you to use this as the baseline for any changes made. And, we would urge the changes made truly recognize the impact they will have in local communities.

While we've become accustomed to flat budgets – every flat budget is a step in the wrong direction for our students and schools. We are happy to see the Legislature take a hard look at this tough issue. Thank you for your diligence and service to the students of New Jersey.

Testimony of Heather Moran before the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Issues

Friday, January 27, 2017

Good morning Mr. President and members of the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Issues. I am Heather Moran, the Principal of Logan Middle School within the Logan Township School District, a K-12 district that sends our high school students to Kingsway Regional.

I am here today, to share not only my strong commitment to my school and district, but to welcome you to our community! I also would like to share my concerns as a building level principal about the impact any additional funding cuts would have on the quality of education we currently provide our students in Logan Township.

Let me begin by telling you about my students and our wonderful school. We have 270 students in our middle school grades 6 through 8. Our student population includes about 20% of students who receive free and reduced lunch and 15% who have special needs. Our school community is economically diverse with significant numbers of students living at both ends of the economic spectrum. Many of our students live in the truly rural portion of South Jersey.

My school serves 270 students in grades 6-8. I am the only building level administrator in my building though I am supported by district level curriculum and special education supervisors. I work with 30 teachers and other certificated staff, though I share teaching staff members with the elementary building within my district. We do not have a media specialist in our school since that position was cut several years ago.


As principal, I can tell you first hand that quality staffing is the key to a school's success. When I arrived at my school in 2013, our school district was still suffering the effects of staff cuts from state funding shortfalls a few years earlier. We shared (and continue to share) our special subject teachers like physical education teachers among schools within the district. My students did not have the benefit of a school counselor on site, a media specialist, a reading specialist or a math specialist when I came on board. This hurt our students and our instructional program with our school performance suffering as a result. My school had been identified as in need of improvement based upon our state testing scores (NJASK).

Fortunately, we have been able to restore these positions over time. I cannot emphasize enough how significant these staff members have been in our effort to move our students forward academically and developmentally. If you know a middle school student, you understand the breadth of emotional concerns and issues they bring to school. Our school counselor has embraced our students dealing with their home, social and learning issues and helped foster a positive school climate in our school. Math and reading specialists have added one-on-one assistance to students, helped identify learning gaps and provided much needed expertise. By freeing up my time, these critical staff members have allowed me to focus on working with individual teachers, setting new instructional goals and leading our school forward. I am proud to say that in a few short years, our students are now among the top performers on state PARCC tests within our county.

Consistent and adequate school funding is critical to my school's continued progress. Our school has fought hard to cut costs wherever possible in order to maintain our school quality and our budget is lean. We do not have sports teams that compete with other districts, but are only able to afford to provide school clubs for our students. We have prioritized technology with our students, but have been unable to update our staff's technology. We limit professional development out of the school due to the cost of substitutes. We have limited field trips as well. Our spending is focused on staff and instructional programs, there are no frills to cut.

My point in sharing all of this is illustrate the potential and significant impact a school funding cut could have on one school building's program and progress. As you consider issues of funding fairness, please keep my school and students in mind. Any funding cut that threatens our ability to maintain our staff and educational program will impact the quality of education we provide to our students in Logan Middle School. On their behalf, I ask you for your support and consideration on the important issue of school funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Monroe Township School District (Middlesex)

HOW THE HOLD-HARMLESS PROVISION IS ACTUALLY HARMING MONROE
TOWNSHIP

Monroe Township Middle School



Monroe Township High School





Monroe Township Board of Education

Mrs. Kathy Kolupanowich, Board President

Mr. Marvin Braverman, Vice President

Ms. Michele Arminio Mr. Ken Chiarella Ms. Jill DeMaio

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Mr. Frank Russo Mr. Paul Rutsky

Dr. Michael Kozak-Superintendent

Dr. Dori Alvich-Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Michael Gorski-Business Administrator/Board Secretary



STUDENT ENROLLMENT

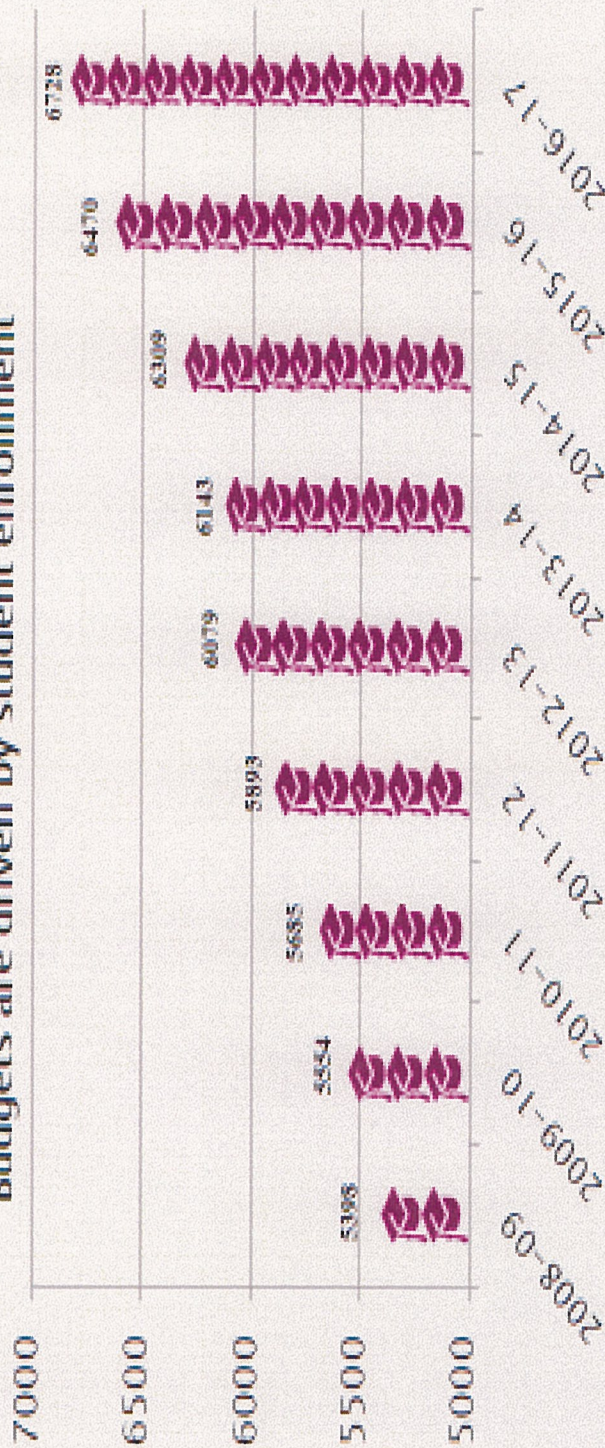
The Monroe Township School District (MTSD) is experiencing unprecedented student growth. We have **added 1,330 students** since 2008. In the next five years, our demographic report **predicts 1,440 students** entering our schools.

Because of the Hold-Harmless provision, the MTSD is cutting quality educational programs and services to accommodate its new student enrollment. In addition, we have been cannibalizing our schools by converting libraries and other areas into classrooms.

Our enrollment projection of 476 students for the 2017-18 school year will cost an additional 7.1 million dollars (476 x 15,000).

BUDGET APPROPRIATION CONSIDERATIONS

Budgets are driven by student enrollment



+ 1,330 students over the past eight years.

* Projected by Ross Haber Associates March 2016



STATE AID

In 2008, MTSD received \$5,467,365 in state aid

In 2016, MTSD received \$3,344,439 in state aid

That equals an 8 year cumulative decrease in state aid of **-\$2,122,926 (- 39%)**

But, our 8 year cumulative student enrollment increased by +1,404 (+ 25%)

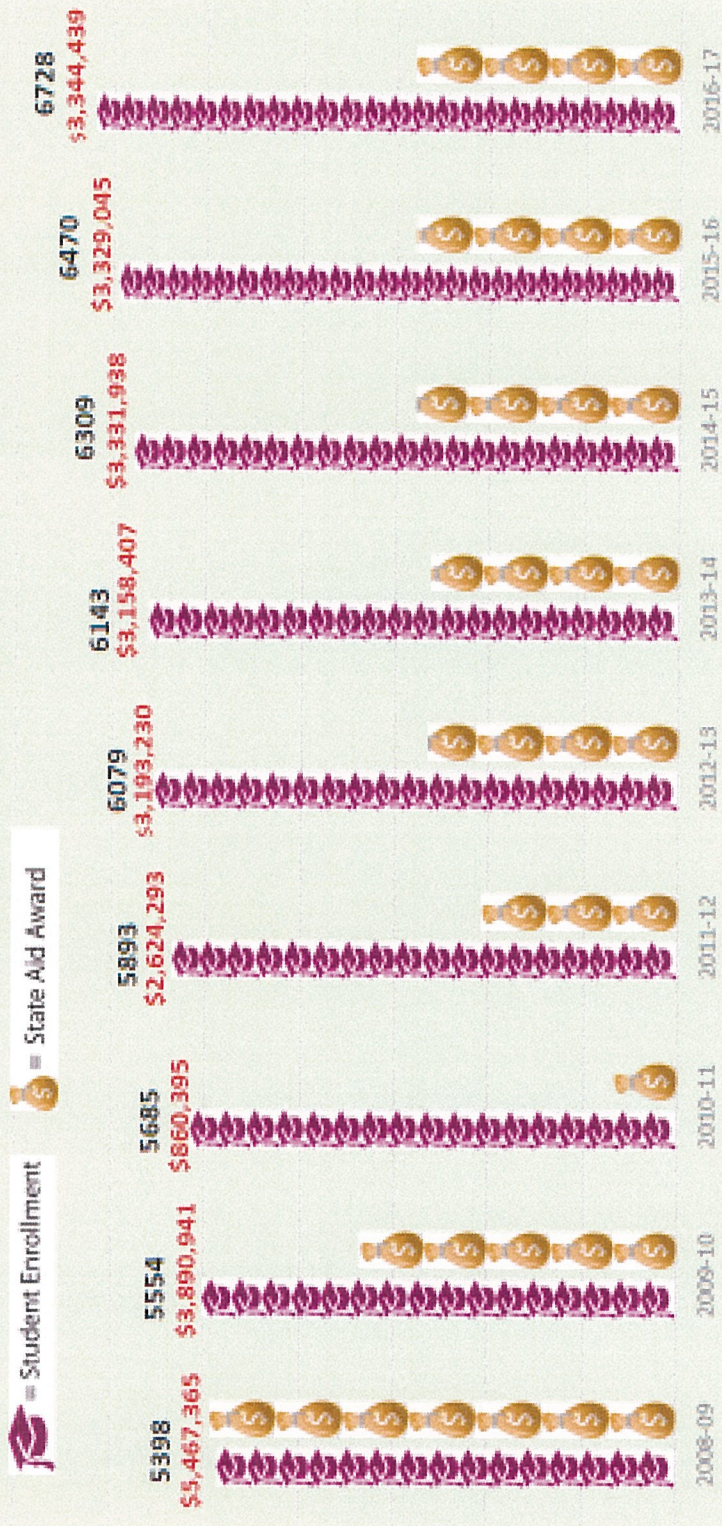




Increase in student population, Decrease in State Aid

8-year cumulative decrease in State Aid
(\$2,122,926.00) - 39%

8-year increase in enrollment from ASSA
+ 1,330 students + 25%





CONCLUSION

Thank you for providing this opportunity to present our funding concerns to you.

On behalf of the Monroe Township Board of Education, the students, staff and the entire community of Monroe Township, **we respectfully ask that you begin to fund the MTSD, and all other underfunded school districts, beginning with the 2017-18 school year.**



Testimony from Andrea Katz, Chesterfield Township Committeewoman.

Thank you Chairman Sweeney and Members of the Committee for being here to discuss this important issue and allowing me to speak to you today. Prior to joining the Chesterfield Township Committee I had the pleasure of serving on the Chesterfield Township Board of Education. Chesterfield has the unfortunate distinction of being the most under-funded district in the state. I can assure you this is not a distinction we would like to have. We have been chronically underfunded for years with state aid staying flat and enrollment increasing every year. The tax payers of Chesterfield have been forced to shoulder the cost of educating the ever growing student population on their own without any help from the state.

The SFRA at its core is not the problem. It is constitutional and, if followed with the exception of a few provisions, would provide what I believe to be a fair distribution of state funds to school districts across the state. However, there are a few provisions in the law that are problematic. First is the hold harmless provision. If a district has decreased enrollment or an increase in their tax base it only makes sense for the aid they receive to reflect that. Isn't that the intention of the formula? The bill also has an enrollment cap. If you aren't going to cap how much a district can grow please don't cap our aid. Chesterfield has experienced significant enrollment increases for many years while the aid we receive from the state has stayed flat exasperating the issues we face from under funding. I understand why provisions like these make their way into legislation. Legislators look out for their districts because that is their job. School funding is so important that it requires impartial arbitrators.

I could sit here all day and throw numbers at you. I can tell you with an operating budget of 9,584,936 Chesterfield is 1.2 million under adequacy while our tax payers are paying \$2,548,005 more than their fair share. I can tell you we are shorted over three million dollars in state aid. But I want to spend my time with you today telling you how all of this impacts the tax payers and parents in Chesterfield.

I asked community members and parents what they wanted you to know today and many expressed the same sentiments. Their taxes continue to skyrocket while the services the school is able to provide do not match those increased taxes. We don't have enough school books for students to bring home. We simply cannot afford the technology necessary to administer PARCC. As I told the Senate President yesterday, we are using funds from box tops and labels for education to purchase the bare minimum of technology required. Investing in 1:1 technology isn't anything close to an option and the longer we wait to implement these programs the wider the gap becomes for our children.

At my last school board meeting our auditor presented the audit report for the year. He confirmed what we already know- that running on a budget as tight as Chesterfield's is not recommended to say the least. I appreciate this Committee's attention and how hard the Senate President has been pushing for a fix to the funding issue we have before us, but I cannot stress enough that time is of the essence. I don't know how long we can continue to go on like this. We need help and we need it now.

It is very frustrating to know that while our district is struggling other districts across the state are receiving millions more than they should. Districts not unlike Chesterfield are spending millions of dollars on technology or debating whether or not they feel like closing a school due to decreased enrollment.

The status quo is not fair. It isn't right. Our residents are drowning in tax bills while the school is operating on a shoe string budget. We need change and we need it soon. I know things in Trenton have a tendency to move slowly and there isn't exactly a lot of extra money floating around right now. I ask you to act quickly on a fix or at least bridge funding until a permanent fix can be found. Please.

In my written testimony I have provided letters from a few residents as well as the comments community members sent to me when I asked for their input for writing my testimony today. I hope you will take the time to read those letters and comments, and I thank you for your time today.

Dear Committee Chairman Sweeney and Members of the Senate Select committee on School Funding Fairness,

I am a 20+ year resident of Chesterfield Township in NJ. Chesterfield Elementary School District is one of the lowest funded districts in the state. I am active in the community, as a Girl Scout Leader, a member of the Chesterfield Township Green Team, Coach for the Chesterfield Township Athletic Association and a PTA and Chesterfield Public Education Fund Member. My husband is also a past 13-year member of the Chesterfield Elementary School Board. We love and care for our community.

I am appealing to the Senate Select Committee on School Funding to make changes and decisions to make the State of New Jersey's school funding fair and equal and to make these changes expeditiously. Our district can no longer provide an excellent education at this pace. Our school is not the school it was 20 years ago, I see the effects of the state funding cuts in my children's education, in every fundraising request that comes home to the families at our school and in our community and at every budget meeting of the Chesterfield Elementary School Board. It is criminal how there are many schools in this state that are grossly overfunded while Chesterfield and others are so severely underfunded.

This underfunding has affected my property taxes to skyrocket from 6,400 to 13,000 with no property improvements due to underfunding. If we were getting a higher quality education and paying these tax rates it would be one thing however the services and programs in the school have decreased drastically. There are children who need additional help in the classroom by way of a qualified resource teacher that do not get that help or are sacrificed to the uncertified Paraprofessional doing their best. Class sizes have increased dramatically. While our population has grown from 300 students to close to 800, our state funding per student has decreased or remained stagnant well below the state per student average.

Some programs that have had to be either cut or funded by the families and a parent based fundraising education fund include but are not limited to the Science Olympiad, levelled reading books for new classrooms due to population increase, STEM/STEAM programs, online research publications, chrome books to support the PARCC testing, educational assemblies and trips, resource programs and enrichment programs. How can our students be expected to compete with students in other school districts that are fairly or overfunded when they are not afforded the same, equal educational experiences?

Annually, services and programs are cut and every year the families of the Chesterfield Community have been asked to support those programs through fundraising. Between the taxes and the fund raising we can no longer expect parents to continuously fund those cut programs. The cut programs and services continue to increase which puts the fundraising in the position of trying to save more services and programs with the same or less money.

In closing, I know you are aware that NJ Education Funding is a problem, I have been to the budget hearings. I am asking that you act now, quickly to equally fund those districts that are desperately underfunded. Look at those schools who have had decreased enrollment and are still receiving more than their fair share. Look at those districts that are overfunded and are still underperforming and hold them to higher standards. Stop throwing funds to those districts who have not improved, until positive changes can be seen. It is not fair to continuously "punish" students in good performing schools for the sins of the irresponsible school administration and oversight. Remember that schools like Chesterfield can only do so much with the resources they have. Performance can slide downhill quickly. Don't wait until Chesterfield is at the bottom of the educational standards "hill" to address this funding issue, it's a much harder and expensive climb to go from the bottom back to the top.

I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Lorrie Thier

4/10x

January 25, 2017

Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness
New Jersey Senate
State House
P.O. Box 099
Trenton, NJ 08625-0099

Dear Senators Sweeney, Pennacchio, Cunningham, Doherty, Oroho, Ruiz, Sarlo and Thompson:

I am a resident of Chesterfield, New Jersey. I am writing to request that the Committee take prompt action to address the unequal state education funding. As you know, Chesterfield receives some of the lowest per pupil state education funding in New Jersey. This lack of funding has created a cascade of difficulties in our town.

First, our elementary school does not have the budget required to provide an effective education to the students. Class sizes are extremely large, and there is no money to permit aides for the younger grades. Gifted and talented programs and special services are lacking. The school is lagging in technology. While an iPad or laptop for every student would be nice (and frankly should be possible given the taxes each homeowner is paying), we cannot even think of funding 1:1 technology purchases because the district cannot afford enough books for all students. Chesterfield funds its elementary school almost exclusively with taxpayer dollars, creating an enormous tax burden for residents. But even with these exorbitant property taxes, our kids are sharing text books and being forced to read the same book time and again because teachers cannot purchase sufficient in-class libraries.

Second, because taxes are so high, many residents are having trouble affording to live in Chesterfield, and are forced to move. With the glut of homes on the market, housing prices in the area are depressed and sellers are not receiving decent offers on their homes.

Third, because of the severe underfunding by the state, parents are asked to contribute money above and beyond the taxes paid to fund basic needs of the school. Our PTA is fundraising to provide balls and other items to be used at recess. After school clubs are organized by parents and funded solely by fundraising and parent contributions. I am a member of the Chesterfield Public Education Fund ("CPEF"), an organization that provides grants to teachers to purchase educational supplies. Grant requests from teachers have skyrocketed, and CPEF does not have the funds to fulfill all requests. Turning away a teacher requesting something as basic as a set of guided reading books for her first grade classroom because there is simply no money is heartbreaking. Knowing that a child may not learn to read as easily or as quickly because the guided reading books were not purchased is worse. Both the PTA and CPEF rely primarily on the parents to meet fundraising goals, and both organizations have seen a downturn in the amount of funds raised as residents struggle with the increasingly high tax burden.

I ask that you please act promptly to address the inadequate education funding provided to districts like Chesterfield. Our residents should not be asked to bear such a disproportionately high tax burden to support education when other districts are receiving more than their fair share of education funding. More importantly, our children should not be receiving a lesser education because of the inequities of school funding.

Regards,

Kelley Johnson
13 Sprague Street
Chesterfield, New Jersey 08515

Carol Cooper-Braun

172 Bordentown-Crosswicks Rd. Crosswicks, NJ 08515
609-298-0154 cw_cooper@verizon.net

January 26, 2017

To the Senate Select Committee on School Funding,

My family has lived in Chesterfield for over 12 years. In that time, we have seen Chesterfield Elementary School grow from a small rural school of 265 students to a large suburban school of over 770 students, and yet the state funding to the school has remained the same. Our property taxes have increased by approximately 40% in the time we have lived here. Just as with many of our friends and neighbors, we have had to consider moving from this community we have grown to love due to the increase in property taxes. However, just as is the case with many of our neighbors, we likely could not sell our house. Property values have fallen, and houses are not selling in Chesterfield, primarily because of the cost of property taxes. Why would people choose to live in a school district that is the most underfunded in the state of New Jersey? To put it plainly, many of us here in Chesterfield are hardworking, taxpaying citizens, who are simply stuck in a situation that if it continues in the trajectory it is headed, could be financially disastrous. Please take a look at how many foreclosures there are in Chesterfield. This extreme inequity in school funding goes way beyond fairness, it is simply appalling.

I respectfully request that the budget for New Jersey schools be redistributed and made equitable for all New Jersey schools. Although I understand that it is difficult to take money away from an overfunded school to give to an underfunded school, it is simply the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Carol Cooper-Braun

Comments collected from Chesterfield Residents-

“Our taxes have gone up \$5,100 since we moved in almost 9 years ago. Paying \$9,100 for a TOWNHOME with ZERO property is completely insane. Plus, we can't get what we paid for our house so we are stuck. It's a shame we love our town, neighbors & schools but if we knew I'd would have come to this, (self funding our school) we would have picked a different area and did private school.” – Rachel Hoagland

“The classrooms sizes are too big. I can only speak to kindergarten since this is our first year but a class size of 22 is too large. Aides are needed and there seems to be a big lack of basic supplies. We are constantly being asked to purchase more stuff. You would think for the amount of taxes we pay pencils and glue could be provided. Kids who need extra help cannot adequately receive it at this ratio and kids who are able to do more are held back in my option.” – Amy Locascio

“We use money from box tops to help get technology in the school. We should be using that for extras yet it is being used for necessary items. It's crazy.” Karen Severe

“Anyone else think this is outrageous? Our house value has dropped \$100k and our taxes have gone up \$4,000 since we moved here 9 years ago. North Hanover is around \$7,000 for a similar house on more land.”

“The LIFT program needs to be expanded for the number of kids in our school who need additional learning resources. The school should have more resources and programs available for kids who need extra help. We are all too busy working to pay the taxes to live here, to be able to reteach at night.”

South Harrison Township Elementary School
904 Mullica Hill Road
Harrisonville, NJ 08039

January 27, 2017

The Honorable Stephen M. Sweeney, Committee Chair
The Honorable Joseph Pennacchio, Committee Vice Chair
Members of the New Jersey Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness

Dear Senators Sweeney, Pennacchio, and Committee Members:

As a member of the Board of Education for South Harrison Township Elementary School in Gloucester County, I'm asking you to ensure that our school districts receive their fair share of state aid.

South Harrison Township is primarily a residential community. Unlike many neighboring districts, it has few commercial ratables. Accordingly, the financial burden to fund the school falls on local homeowners. Without significant increases in state aid, our district will be unable to keep pace with the costs to educate our students, forcing a reduction in programs and staff.

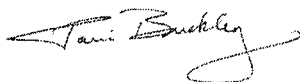
Despite this difficult economic environment, our administration secured significant savings and cost efficiencies through a combination of school choice election, school funding advocacy, and shared administrative services with Kingsway Regional High School. This enabled the administration to redirect funds back to education. However, we are out of options as costs continue to rise.

It's unconscionable that eight school districts in Gloucester County alone receive more than 100% of full, uncapped SFRA funding, including the Wenonah Elementary School District, which receives 286% funding, while South Harrison and two of its sister elementary sending school districts to Kingsway Regional High School receive only 86%, 56% and 49% of state aid.

Furthermore, as South Harrison students advance to Kingsway Regional High School to receive their middle and high school education, they continue to be deprived at the secondary level, since Kingsway is grossly underfunded at 46%.

Accordingly, on behalf of South Harrison Township school district, as a member of the Board of Education, I ask you to end the disparity, today, and provide the sorely needed aid that has been lacking for so long.

Most sincerely,



M. Toni Buckley
Member, South Harrison Township Elementary Board of Education

Fair Funding Testimony Regarding East Greenwich School District

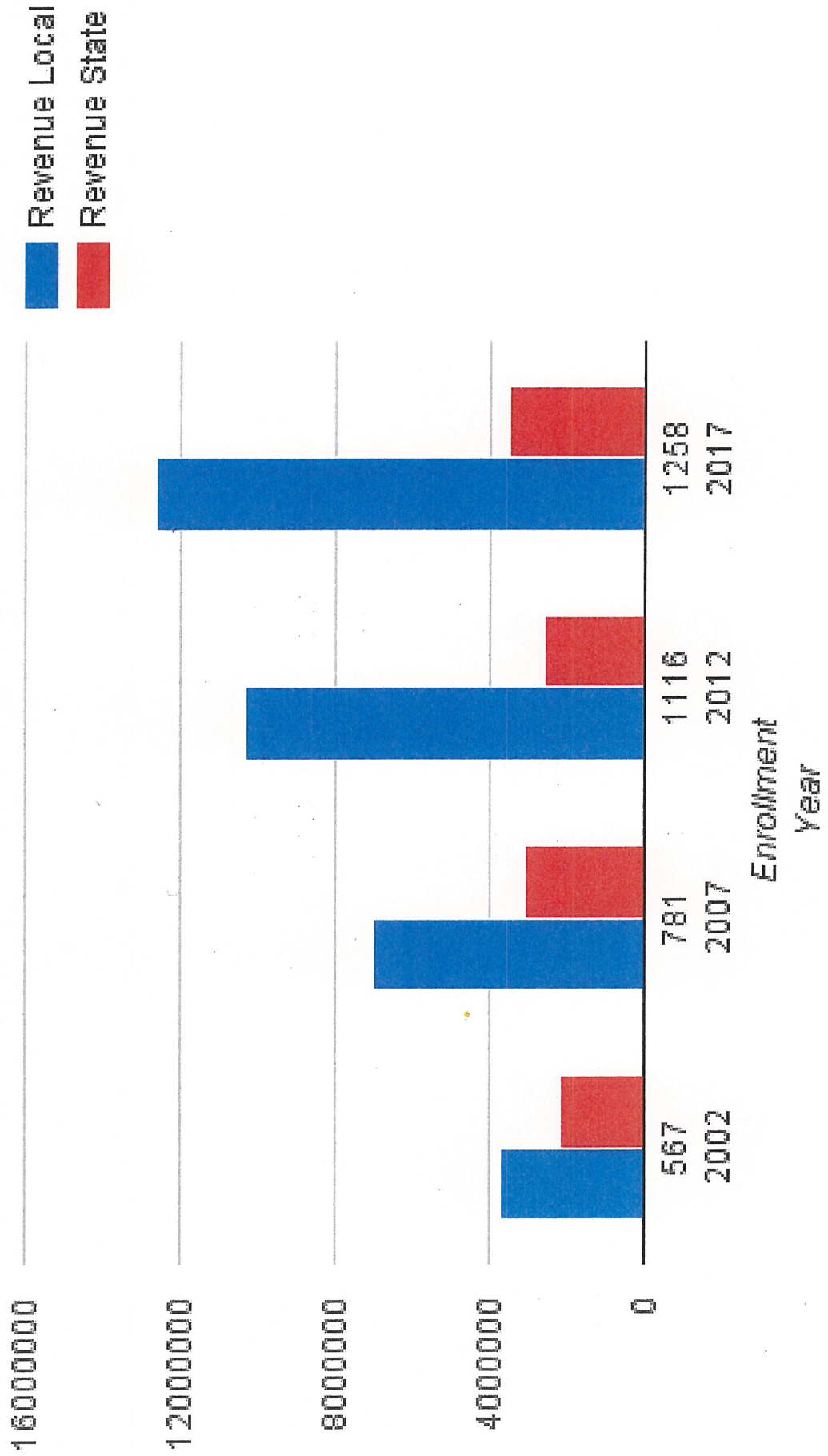
- One of the top five fastest growing school districts in NJ
- More than 240 homes slated to be built within the next three to five years, most with a five-year tax abatement
- East Greenwich School District is efficiently run as indicated by our most recent 2016-17 Efficiency Standards Budget Review.
- East Greenwich School District, according to the 2015-16 *Tax Payers' Guide to Education Spending* indicates that:
 - Support services cost per pupil is less than the state median
 - Administrative cost per pupil is less than the state median
 - Legal costs per pupil is less than the state median
 - Operation and maintenance cost is less than the state median
- East Greenwich employees contribute towards benefits at both the Tier IV level and have additional contributions towards prescription
- East Greenwich School District has used all banked cap and can only raise the tax levy by 2% or approximately \$250,000, which barely covers increased fixed costs.
- If fully funded, according to the School Funding Reform Act of 2008, East Greenwich School District stands to gain approximately \$3.5 million.
- If fully funded and all the revenue were to go to taxpayer relief, the average homeowner would see taxes go down by approximately \$400.
- It is the position of the East Greenwich School District that fair funding needs to be implemented in both a non-partisan fashion as quickly as possible and legislation worded in such a way that at least a portion of the additional funding will go to taxpayer relief.
- In spite of the funding and high levels of efficiency, East Greenwich School District is declared as a "high performing" school district by the Department of Education
- Attached resident petition
- Attached graph: enrollment/aid

Respectfully Presented for the East Greenwich Board of Education by:

Dr. James J. Lynch
Superintendent of Schools
559 Kings Highway
Mickleton, NJ 08056
(856) 423-0412



Revenue Local and Revenue State



53x

Petition to Properly Fund East Greenwich and Kingsway Regional Schools

* Required

Petition summary and background

To seek proper and fair funding in regards to the Percent of Uncapped Aid Received which for East Greenwich Township is \$3,553,979 underfunded, while Kingsway Regional is \$9,793,224 underfunded in regards to State Aid at 85% of Uncapped.

Action petitioned for

We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to properly fund East Greenwich Public Schools in East Greenwich and Kingsway Regional School District in Woolwich Township which are severely underfunded compared to all other schools in Gloucester County. Funds from the state this year for East Greenwich only give our pupils 49% of the adequate funding in the state funding formula and funds for Kingsway give our pupils only 47.2% of the funded schools based on percentage in Gloucester County. The lack of funding not only puts our students at a disadvantage, but burdens local tax payers in the community as well as student's parents who not only pay high taxes but then must reach further into their pockets to help supply funds and supplies that would be furnished by the schools if they were adequately and equitably funded. Per student East Greenwich is underfunded by \$1,931.00 while Kingsway Regional students are underfunded by \$2,952.00 under current funding.

Name *

Address *

Comment

Email Address

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

54x

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
9/17/2015 14:59:42	Delisha Breen	857 Cymbeline Court		delishabreen@msn.com
9/17/2015 15:37:26	Ann Marie Elliott	106 Sarah Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		elliottsgriife@aol.com
9/17/2015 15:57:02	Karen Forst	267 Genesee Road		karenforst1227@yahoo.com
9/17/2015 17:05:24	Christina George	27 Quaker Rd. Mickleton NJ 08056		Cgeellura@hotmail.com
9/17/2015 17:05:58	Michael George	27 Quaker Rd. Mickleton NJ 08056		Mdedgeorge.email@gmail.com
9/18/2015 8:28:54	Kristy	Jones	Fairly fund our schools	kig0406@gmail.com
9/18/2015 8:28:02	Kristy	Jones	Fairly fund our schools!	kig0406@gmail.com
9/18/2015 10:03:10	Lori Reeves	149 Ascot Dr Mount Royal NJ 08061		Lreeves1012@comcast.net
9/18/2015 11:40:57	Beth Sprigman	722 Farnhouse Road Mickleton NJ 08056		Bsprigman@hotmail.com
9/18/2015 11:42:02	Charles Sprigman	722 Farnhouse Road Mickleton NJ 08056		Csprig@comcast.net
9/18/2015 15:36:17	Barb Player	92 Eagleview Terrace Mount Royal NJ 08061		player.barb@yahoo.com
9/19/2015 21:30:59	Stephanie smith	113 weathervane dr, Mount Royal nj 08061		Smithsteph22@comcast.net
9/20/2015 10:17:17	Dawn Fery	175 Billows Dr. Mount Royal NJ		
9/20/2015 19:14:18	Christie Comerford	310 W Crossing Dr		
9/20/2015 19:15:00	caroline juarsa	79 deer horn dr		CJUARSA@GMAIL.COM
9/20/2015 19:15:13	stuart xiao	79 deer horn dr		stusells@gmail.com
9/20/2015 19:15:24	Christie Comerford	310 W Crossing Dr Mount Royal NJ 08061		ccomerford@dlworthlaw.com
9/20/2015 19:16:04	Thomas Comerford	310 w Crossing Dr Mount Royal NJ 08061		thomas.comerford@bsdfm.com
9/20/2015 20:20:32	Lisa Masciangelo	211 Smallwood drive mickleton nj		
9/21/2015 8:53:24	Noelle Palladino	532 Morgan Drive Mickleton, NJ 08056		fsantos1@comcast.net
9/21/2015 14:57:30	Frank Santos	365 friendship road		Asviben@sviben.org
9/21/2015 15:43:32	Alisha Sviben	158 Tradewinds dr Mount Royal, NJ		angle.hunter@outlook.com
9/21/2015 17:49:24	Angela M. Hunter	547 Morgan Drvs. Mickleton NJ 08056		stedrow@bayada.com
9/22/2015 10:04:06	Suzann Price-Tedrow	21 Curtmantle Rd. Mickleton, NJ 08056		sumanjacob@yahoo.com
9/22/2015 10:38:35	Suman Jacob	230 Hopkins Rd		Jhaines4@comcast.net
9/23/2015 5:54:55	Jennifer Agness	359 Carriage Dr.Mount Royal, NJ 08061		tonkessler@gmail.com
9/23/2015 11:34:34	Toni Kessler	178 Prairie View Ln Mickleton, NJ 08056		gobercpa@yahoo.com
9/23/2015 18:53:59	James Gober	824 Middlesborough Way, Mickleton, NJ 08056		Agoncalves531@gmail.com
9/23/2015 19:57:25	Amanda Goncalves	549 Kings Hwy Mickleton NJ 08056		sharon.foth@gmail.com
9/24/2015 7:03:41	Sharon Foth	58 Forage Drive, Mickleton NJ 08056		bmymers2@gmail.com
9/24/2015 8:34:22	Lora Myers	73 Sunset Drive, Mt. Royal, NJ 08061		charris1013@gmail.com
9/24/2015 9:45:38	Coleen Harris	173 Billows Drive, Mt. Royal, NJ 08061		lamcnames@yahoo.com
9/24/2015 9:49:40	Lauren Wilkes	162 Prairie View Lane Mickleton, NJ 08056		rbnatkin@msn.com
9/24/2015 12:45:03	Rachel Natkin	4 Randolph Court		
9/24/2015 15:26:50	Leigh C. Simpson, M.Ed.	8 Weatherby Avenue	As a resident of EGT and a school administrator in New Jersey, the students of East Greenwich and Kingsway deserve to have their education fully funded. I urge those in a position to do so to rectify this situation immediately.	lbwsimpson@gmail.com
9/26/2015 8:38:22	Sumana Stephenson	234 BARTLETT DR		sumana.stephenson@gmail.com
9/28/2015 8:58:35	Rich Whitworth	107 Quail Ridge Way Mickleton nj		rwhitwor107@comcast.net
9/28/2015 22:05:11	Jeff Hunter	547 Morgan Drive - Mickleton, NJ 08056	Please properly and fairly fund the East Greenwich and Kingsway Regional School District	jeffreyhunter@hotmail.com
9/28/2015 22:27:46	Fabianna Kleinot	365 Conccetta Drive Mount Royal, NJ		fapadula@comcast.net
9/29/2015 8:40:23	Deanna Tyers	109 SUNSET DRIVE MT ROYAL NJ 08061		
9/29/2015 13:30:34	Jeffrey R. Hunter	547 Morgan Drive Mickleton, NJ 08056		jeff@hunterdoor.com
9/30/2015 13:46:55	Tracy Brown	214 Bartlett Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		tracyimartin@hotmail.com
9/30/2015 16:24:01	Cynthia A. Morris	PO box 104. 95 democrat road Mickleton	Please give us our fair share of funding.	camorris53@yahoo.com

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
9/30/2015 23:37:29	Kyle Forst	267 Genesee Road Clarksboro		kyleforst@hotmail.com
10/2/2015 19:45:52	Karen Johnson	399 Doerrmann Drive		kifohns@comcast.net
10/4/2015 11:23:50	Stephanie Pretzell	164 Kayla Drive Mount Royal, NJ 08061		Spretzell@comcast.net
10/4/2015 11:24:27	Adolfo Pretzell	164 Kayla Drive Mount Royal, NJ 08061		Aeprettell@comcast.net
10/5/2015 11:11:31	Nicole Dixon	130 Evergreen Court, Mount Royal 08061		ndixon@wdepford.k12.nj.us
10/5/2015 13:03:44	Pauline Ratkowiak	704 Rachael Drive		pcratkowiak@comcast.net
10/5/2015 14:11:15	Kathryn A Pacewicz	706 Nicole Drive, Mickleton, NJ		kate_frat@yahoo.com
10/5/2015 20:54:18	Craig Clifford	2 Flurry Court, Mt Royal NJ 08061		kmm52204@yahoo.com
10/6/2015 21:36:06	Kelly Neal	106 Sunset Dr		Gabmuraca@hotmail.com
10/8/2015 6:33:28	Gabriella mcloskey	425 birch dr., mickleton nj 08055		wease1992@comcast.net
10/8/2015 7:47:31	louise yates	161 alyssa dr		groom1992@comcast.net
10/8/2015 7:48:04	mike yates	161 alyssa dr		ashleynpeddle@gmail.com
10/8/2015 17:20:26	Ashley Peddle	202 Hopkins Rd. Mickleton, NJ 08056		Rmuhjr@comcast.net
10/8/2015 19:38:40	Robert C. Muhbaier Jr.	6 Mantua Rd, P.O. Box 272, Mt. Royal, NJ 08061		michaelmccarty@yahoo.com
10/10/2015 16:47:58	Michael K. McCarty RN	111 East Cohawkin Road, Clarksboro, NJ 08020	Please update your stupid system and make this fair for all our children	kellydukich@msn.com
10/13/2015 8:51:25	Kelly Dukich	536 Morgan Drive Mickleton NJ 08056		kellydukich@msn.com
10/13/2015 9:00:57	Kelly Dukich	536 Morgan Drive Mickleton NJ 08056		Mbehtrich@yahoo.com
10/13/2015 20:35:25	Mary Beth Rosauer	363 West Crossing Dr Mount Royal NJ 08061		atorrella@yahoo.com
10/14/2015 20:14:44	Deanna Tyers	109 Sunset Drive My Royal nj 08061		lsahickey@live.com
10/15/2015 7:22:40	Karen Tortella	276 Jennings Way Mickleton NJ		mramoscomp@gmail.com
10/16/2015 9:38:36	Jenn Novellus	118 Tammy Lane Mickleton		timback@hotmail.com
10/22/2015 10:47:13	Lisa Hickey	203 Smallwood Drive, Mickleton NJ 08056	petition for funding	sjbell621@gmail.com
10/26/2015 9:23:37	Maria Ramos	316 Carriage Drive		Nicolosidanielle@gmail.com
10/28/2015 11:43:52	Timothy Back	353 Carriage Dr, Mount Royal, NJ 08061		aileen.parker@aol.com
10/29/2015 10:14:24	Sarah Bell	175 Prairie View Lane		Momdger@comcast.net
10/30/2015 8:45:43	Karey Kidd	823 Derilus drive mickleton 08056		einksmith@gmail.com
11/2/2015 1:39:13	Danielle Nicolosi	808 Derilus Dr		aimeelynn14@hotmail.com
11/2/2015 10:20:18	Aileen Parker	60 Curtmantle Rd		Rileysophia@gmail.com
11/2/2015 19:16:36	Gertrude M Kosek	244 Landing Road		kristie718@gmail.com
11/3/2015 0:12:52	Elin K Smith	330 Barbara Drive		bburke@wdepford.k12.nj.us
11/3/2015 10:22:46	Almee Rivello	421 Conceffa Drive		breeves1012@comcast.net
11/4/2015 6:38:25	Raquel Dorofy	248 Landing Rd Clarksboro, NJ 08020		lgheld2@gmail.com
11/8/2015 20:05:55	Robbisue Sambucci	126 Sambar Lane Mount Royal NJ 08061		ymcasiano123@comcast.net
11/9/2015 5:09:49	Katherine Ricci	13 Stone Ridge Dr.		jschmid151@comcast.net
11/9/2015 10:20:05	Kristie LaRocca	137 Sunset Dr	Our children deserve the same funding as other local schools. How do children learn without text books and limited supplies?	
11/10/2015 10:41:31	Brendan Burke	87 Sunset Dr		sbrudnicki@comcast.net
11/12/2015 10:20:39	Brad Reeves	149 Ascit Drive Mount Royal NJ 08061		ryan.peddle@gmail.com
11/13/2015 9:03:31	Lisa Held	824 Derilus Dr, Mickleton NJ 08056		Kco.flauri@gmail.com
11/16/2015 15:51:56	Yvonne Casiano	381 Kings Highway		
11/16/2015 21:09:45	Brian Donahue	41 Quaker Rd. Mickleton		
11/17/2015 10:43:02	Jim Schmidt	320 Iannelli Rd Clarksboro		
11/17/2015 21:44:04	tracy bishop	239 Kings Hwy, Clarksboro nj 08020		
11/21/2015 8:01:58	Sharon Brudnicki	236 Jennings Court		
11/21/2015 13:40:20	Ryan Peddle	202 Hopkins Rd		
11/22/2015 21:56:38	Claudia Flauri	91 Deer Horn Dr., Mount Royal, NJ		

56x

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
1/22/2015 21:57:39	Kevin Filauri	91 Deer Horn Dr., Mount Royal, NJ		Kco.filauri@gmail.com
1/22/2015 22:42:08	Patricia Delaney	352 Concetta drive		funnyface2026@aol.com
1/24/2015 8:24:25	Carole Vogel	278 Jennings Way Mickleton NJ		
1/24/2015 20:42:03	JOHN HEDRICK	247 JENNINGS WAY		HEDRICKJW@COMCAST.NET
1/29/2015 22:06:48	Kelly Moore	223 Cohawkin Road		Kellymoore71@Gmail.com
12/3/2015 13:45:25	Maria Ramos	316 Carriage Drive, Mt Royal, NJ 08061		mramoscmp@gmail.com
12/4/2015 11:29:49	Rachel Coleman	254 Kings Highway Clarksboro, NJ 08020		Rachel_1209@yahoo.com
12/10/2015 11:41:56	Abiade Ogunisola	53 Quaker road, Mickleton, NJ 08056		Abjide@gmail.com
12/21/2015 13:30:45	Dominic Gambino	217 Waterbury Court, Mt. Royal, NJ 08061		dominicgambino@yahoo.com
1/3/2016 10:09:48	Bill Nevius	118 Tammy Lane Mickleton		nevius20@yahoo.com
1/4/2016 10:25:19	Greta Schiffer-Mock	708 Kings Highway, Mickleton, NJ 08056	As a parent of two young students, they deserve the same things as the other school districts are getting.	gretab7@comcast.net
1/11/2016 14:34:18	Linda Tomlin	218 Hopkins Road		thetomlins4@gmail.com
1/11/2016 14:34:45	Bruce Tomlin	218 Hopkins Road, Mickleton, NJ 08056		thetomlins4@gmail.com
1/11/2016 16:38:03	George Mock	708 Kings Highway, Mickleton, NJ 08056		georgem33@comcast.net
1/12/2016 14:41:24	John McPeak	395 Kings Highway Mickleton NJ 08056		jfmcpk@aol.com
1/12/2016 14:43:21	Donna Rittershausen	713 Elaine Drive, Mickleton NJ 08056		donnaritter@comcast.net
1/12/2016 14:43:42	Michelle M Lombardi	367 Concetta Drive, Mount Royal, NJ 08061	Make things right, Department of Ed!	domsmom94@comcast.net
1/12/2016 14:43:56	Tracey Wolf	165 Acorn Drive		Tracey_wolf@dcu.org
1/12/2016 14:46:54	Rose Prestopino	232 Fawn Meadow Dr		
1/12/2016 14:47:42	John DeGeorge	189 Democrat Rd, Mickleton, NJ 08056		jdegeorge@ebtrailers.com
1/12/2016 14:48:37	David Keegan	16 Stone Ridge Dr Mickleton NJ 08056		dkeeganjr@gmail.com
1/12/2016 14:49:32	Eric Harkins	158 Windsor Way, Mount Royal NJ 08061		
1/12/2016 14:51:28	Martha Cossaboon	51 Shute Farm Lane, Clarksboro, NJ 08061	Fund the district equally with other districts!	
1/12/2016 14:52:49	L.T. and Mary Vaccara	54 Shute Farm Lane, Clarksboro NJ	We deserve equitable funding. It does not make any sense for our township to be underfunded while our neighbors are overfunded. Please properly fund out schools!	tvaccara@verizon.net
1/12/2016 14:52:52	Michael Cocozza	49 Curtmantle Rd, Mickleton, NJ		mcocozza@gmail.com
1/12/2016 14:56:22	Lisa Held	824 Darius Dr, Mickleton NJ 08056		lgheld2@gmail.com
1/12/2016 14:58:06	Daniel Louderback	703 Racheal Dr		dcloud@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 14:59:24	Barbara Urbanski	37 Shute Farm Lane, Clarksboro NJ 08020		burbanski@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:01:51	Wendy Garvey	180 Windsor Way		wendygarvey@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:01:52	Anthony D'Angelis	214 Hopkins Rd, Mickleton NJ 08056		Tony_dangelis@hotmail.com
1/12/2016 15:03:53	Jayne Downing	46 Heirloom Drive, Clarksboro, NJ 08020	All schools should be underfunded equally.	jaynedowning2014@gmail.com
1/12/2016 15:05:26	Burton Panetta	248 Gaunt Dr		
1/12/2016 15:05:56	Vince	Gattuso		gattusovince@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 15:06:15	Sandra Pitts	519 Meadow Ridge Dr		jspittstop1@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:07:15	Burton Panetta	248 Gaunt Dr	In the interest of fairness	ggpobpab@gmail.com
1/12/2016 15:09:35	Susan Breen		Act now to properly fund East Greenwich Public Schools in East Greenwich and Kingsway Regional School in Woolwich Township and to END this unlawful travesty.	susan.c.breen@gmail.com
1/12/2016 15:10:47	Joseph Regina	89 Myrtle Avenue, Mickleton, NJ 08056		joefregina@gmail.com
1/12/2016 15:17:02	Frank Cossaboon	555 Partridge Court, Mickleton NJ 08056	Fund East Greenwich Schools Properly	
1/12/2016 15:23:00	Eugenie	51 Shute Farm Lane, Clarksboro, NJ 08020		e-matyas@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:25:50	John rucci	104 cypress lane		Jrucci@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:26:04	Michael Taylor	215 Smallwood Drive		mtcraftsman@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:27:49	frank muraca	32 e.rattling run rd		

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
1/12/2016 15:28:36	Lawrence T. Vaccara	54 Shute Farm Ln, Clarksboro NJ 08021		lvaccara@verizon.net
1/12/2016 15:29:56	Destree Purvenas-Hayes	757 Rattling Run Road Mickleton NJ 08056	FIX THIS!	dmpurvenas.hayes@gmail.com
1/12/2016 15:30:26	Michael Hayes	757 Rattling Run Road Mickleton NJ 08056	FIX THIS!	hazer135@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 15:35:27	Craig Kraemer	12 Marino Dr. Clarksboro	It's the right thing to do!	Ckraemersr@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:35:35	Tricia Mento	287 dogwood Lane, 08020	We demand fair funding	Tricia0728@gmail.com
1/12/2016 15:36:00	Charles	Ferris		bcferris@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:40:19	Craig Kraemer	12 Marino Dr. Clarksboro	I want fair funding	Ckraemersr@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:41:48	Lisa Wilkinson	217 Pine Mill Rd Clarksboro NJ 08020		Lmw72@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:41:57	Barbara Ferris	48 Brandywine Dr, Clarksboro.		bcferris@comcast.net
1/12/2016 15:45:20	Clifford Gilpin	32 W. Tomlin Station Rd, Mickleton, NJ	The state needs to bring the funding to parity with similar systems. This has been going on for some years and as such the should also be compensated for prior under funding.	
1/12/2016 15:46:20	Amy Jones	178 Westbrook Court	Please fund all schools fairly and equitably.	amy.jones@xerox.com
1/12/2016 15:46:25	Dolores Goess	111 Timberlane Road, Clarksboro, NJ 08020		sweetie0712@me.com
1/12/2016 15:50:11	George Crawford	201 East Cohawkin Rd	How is it even legal to "steal" from one area and give it to another? Maybe legal action should be taken and this travesty be made public on the media!	gcrawfcohawk@hotmail.com
1/12/2016 15:52:13	David E Wilkinson	217 Pine Mill Road		
1/12/2016 16:07:28	Joseph O'Connor	72 Harmony Rd.		joe623@comcast.net
1/12/2016 16:07:57	Vincent Corabi	153 Windsor Way		vorabi@gmail.com
1/12/2016 16:12:04	Anthony Donofrio	101 timberlane rd		beaconlight5@verizon.net
1/12/2016 16:16:27	Kristine Bergmann	40 Democrat Rd, Mickleton NJ 08056	Properly fund our schools! It's only fair for our students and taxpayers!	Kbergmann@comcast.net
1/12/2016 16:18:17	Joe Sapp	329 Iannelli Road Clarksboro, NJ 08020		joesapp@outlook.com
1/12/2016 16:18:34	Joanne Hutchison	68 CedarRoad, Mickleton, NJ 08056		jhutchisonx2@gmail.com
1/12/2016 16:18:46	John	Dormann Sr.	Please fund East greenwich as it should be. My taxes went from \$4,300.00 to \$12,000.00 since I built my house.	dormann5@comcast.net
1/12/2016 16:22:06	Diane Wagner	63 Democrat Road, Mickleton, NJ, 08056	Please re-consider your decision to fairly fund our elementary and high school districts fairly at the state mandated level. We are	Dswagner32@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 16:24:18	Thomas Gaskill	9 Jubilee Dr, Clarksboro	We need at least our fair share of the state funding!	cedarisland1@comcast.net
1/12/2016 16:33:49	Joseph Nachman	510 Kings Hwy		jnachman6@gmail.com
1/12/2016 16:40:01	Tammie Lee bickford	52 forage Dr Mickleton NJ		Tirebel@comcast.net
1/12/2016 16:42:27	Cindy Miles	111 Cpyress Ln, Mickleton NJ		cindy miles5@comcast.net
1/12/2016 16:43:17	Paul Kilgus	242 Landing Rd, Clarksboro	Obey the law and give the Township what is right and just.	kilgskat@aol.com
1/12/2016 16:45:29	Marian Purzycki	521 Meadow Ridge Drive		purzycki_marian@hotmail.com
1/12/2016 16:48:04	gerald hutchison	68 Cedar Rd Mickleton NJ	Be fair and get it RIGHT !	jhutchisonx2@gmail.com
1/12/2016 16:49:49	Corrine Brickner	29 Somers Ave., Clarksboro, NJ 08020	I agree that the total pie for funding should be divided fairly.	ponygirl06@verizon.net
1/12/2016 16:50:00	J Fearon	82 Harmony Road	I am very thankful our township committee is providing this information to the tax payers. It is a travesty to learn other districts are overfunded at our expense!	jfearon@live.com
1/12/2016 16:50:01	Joseph Gallagher	24 Clover Ridge Drive, Mickleton NJ		giggerpsu@msn.com
1/12/2016 16:51:11	Constance G Gaskill	9 Jubilee Dr, Clarksboro	Please do the right thing and fund our schools, thank you	egg3@comcast.net
1/12/2016 16:52:34	John Brickner	29 Somers Ave., Clarksboro, NJ 08020	It is not right that our school district should not receive its fair portion of the State's total school funding. We pay our fair share of taxes, too.	jbbrick@verizon.net
1/12/2016 16:53:22	Kathy Kilgus	242 Landing Rd, Clarksboro	Equal Education to all NJ students	kathykilgus@gmail.com
1/12/2016 16:54:12	Dan Rigney	10 Putnam Ct		Riggs322@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 16:54:21	Dan Rigney	10 Putnam Ct		Riggs322@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 16:55:20	Stephanie Rigney	10 Putnam Ct		Teachmath11@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 16:56:43	Charles K. McLaughlin	231 Tohopecka Rd, Clarksboro, NJ, 08020	Do what is right and fair.	Charleyrmyboy@yahoo.com

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
1/12/2016 16:57:41	McLaughlin	231 Tohopecka Rd, Clarksboro, NJ, 08020	Do what is right and fair.	Charleymyboy@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 16:57:59	carol vassallo	251 Jessup Mill Road	the inequity in funding between adjoining townships must be eliminated.	carol.vassallo@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 17:00:08	Jerry A Stone	7 Garwood Blvd. Clarksboro NJ 08020		jerrystonehead@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 17:01:03	Judith A. McLaughlin	231 Tohopecka Rd Clarksboro NJ , 08020	Be fair	Charleymyboy@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 17:23:56	Gail Westervelt	403 Doerrmann Drive		
1/12/2016 17:32:51	diane shore	181 prairie view lane		diane.shore@comcast.net
1/12/2016 17:35:36	Michael Minniti	238 Smallwood Drive Mickleton NJ 08056	Please adequately fund our schools in East Greenwich Township.	Miminn15@comcast.net
1/12/2016 17:36:41	John	Hasson	I am very thankful our township committee is providing this information to the tax payers. It is a travesty to learn other districts are overfunded at our expense!	Jmhasson126@gmail.com
1/12/2016 17:41:02	J Fearon	82 Harmony Road	Fair funding for all.	jfearon@live.com
1/12/2016 17:42:14	Peter Kunsallits	789 Chelsea Glenn Road, Clarksboro, NJ 08020		
1/12/2016 17:46:42	Karen Johnson	399 Doerrmann Drive Mickleton, NJ 08056		kifjohns@comcast.net
1/12/2016 18:02:55	Bill Bentley	562 partridge ct, Mickleton,nj	Please law makers make the burden fair across neighboring towns at the very least	chefwonka@hotmail.com
1/12/2016 18:15:57	Carlo	Tosceno	We are only asking for fair treatment like other NJ districts	cjos@verizon.net
1/12/2016 18:23:20	Lorraine Brady	55 Curtmantle Rd, Mickleton, NJ 08056		Loribrady3@msn.com
1/12/2016 18:29:35	Geraldine Wilgus	206 Brysons Way amount Royal NJ 08061		dontcallimegerl@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 18:34:39	Linda Turk	204 Brysons Way, Mt Royal, NJ		turkl@comcast.net
1/12/2016 18:34:58	Amanda Kennedy	213 Waterbury Court	The distribution of funding should be equal for each municipality. It is unfair to students and unfair to taxpayers.	alk220@gmail.com
1/12/2016 19:04:31	Craig Kraemer	12 Marino Dr. Clarksboro		Ckraemers@comcast.net
1/12/2016 19:06:40	Godfrey Brown	34 W Tomlin Station Rd	We all should be funded fairly regardless of where you live.	godfrey.brown58@gmail.com
1/12/2016 19:18:38	Andrew Stankovich	205 Sullivan Drive	Please fund our schools fairly compared to the rest of the state!	Aps142@comcast.net
1/12/2016 19:27:20	Jessica Van Tassel	337 Kings highway, Clarksboro nj	Reconsider and be FAIR to East Greenwich	sjpessie@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 19:28:43	Arthur C Ebert Jr	112 East Wolfert Station Road		theartoffishing@usa.net
1/12/2016 19:35:03	Dana Richards	162 Tradewinds Drive		Danaandryan@comcast.net
1/12/2016 19:43:37	Jeff taylor	716 Nicole drive Mickleton nj	Find us fairly	Jeffrey.j.taylor@outlook.com
1/12/2016 19:43:46	Patrick J Crowe Jr	546 Kings Highway East Greenwich NJ 08056		pattisa86@aol.com
1/12/2016 19:46:51	Gary L Breen	89 Myrtle Ave., East Greenwich, NJ 08056		gary.l.breen@gmail.com
1/12/2016 19:52:11	Tina Carozza	330 Concetta Drive		Tinacarozza@gmail.com
1/12/2016 19:57:17	Anne Marsh	9 Garwood Blvd, Clarksboro NJ 08020		annemarsh@comcast.net
1/12/2016 19:59:39	Fred Cuddy	81 Myrtle Ave., Mickleton, NJ 08056	Why? Why are we underfunded?	fcuddy4@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 20:14:35	WILLIAM LANGE	285 GREEN TER	As a teacher and a taxpayer I know how important it is for the state to fund our schools.	williamplange@yahoo.com
1/12/2016 20:25:08	Apryl palazzo	226 Smallwood drive, mickleton, nj		Aprylpalazzo@hotmail.com
1/12/2016 20:30:07	Erik Daugherty	20 Putnam Court Mickleton, NJ		Edoc17@hotmail.com
1/12/2016 20:32:45	Robert Anicic	730 Farmhouse Rd., Mickleton, NJ 08056	I believe that the State of NJ owes the residents of East Greenwich an answer to why East Greenwich and Kingsway School districts are being under-funded?	rganicic4@comcast.net
1/12/2016 20:38:38	Stacy Dawson	358 concetta drive Mount Royal New Jersey	Fund our schools fairly!	Smscel2214@comcast.net
1/12/2016 20:47:45	Rebecca Popp	560 Kings Hwy		Rebeccapopp@verizon.net
1/12/2016 20:48:57	Lenora Popp	560 Kings Hwy		Lenorapopp@verizon.net
1/12/2016 20:54:39	Edward Deegan	544 Morgan Ave Mickleton NJ 08056		
1/12/2016 21:24:19	K. Carfagno	East Greenwich Twp.,		Kcarfagno@comcast.net
1/12/2016 21:28:37	Tina Kennedy	110 Quail Ridge Way	Schools need to be funded equally.	ina.kennedy@verizon.com
1/12/2016 22:09:42	Eric hallman	163 prairie view lane Mickleton		Ehallman12@gmail.com

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
1/12/2016 22:10:07	Dawn Hallman	163 prairie view lane		Dhallman163@gmail.com
1/12/2016 22:13:25	Caroline Capasso	86 West Tomlin Station Rd		Carolinecapasso@comcast.net
1/12/2016 22:15:53	Allison Ferla	43 Forage Drive Mickleton NJ	I am outraged at this. Shame on NJ.	ferla1313@gmail.com
1/12/2016 22:17:57	Marjo Miles	111 Cypress Lane, Mickleton, NJ 08056		
1/12/2016 22:19:16	Jessica Wadleigh	169 Cedar Rd, Mickleton NJ	Be fair to everyone in the community.	Matthew.Arredondo@crozer.org
1/12/2016 22:21:13	Matthew Arredondo	736 Fairhouse Rd Mickleton NJ		
1/12/2016 22:24:50	William Piper	419 Cherry Lane Mickleton		
1/12/2016 22:35:34	Michael W. Meyer	538 Morgan Dr., Mickleton, NJ 08056	We seek only what is fair, equitable, and required by existing law	Michael.w.meyer@gmail.com
1/12/2016 22:53:22	Patricia Doria	7 Still Run Dr., Mickleton, NJ		patdoria@comcast.net
1/12/2016 22:57:59	Danielle Nicolosi	808 Derius Dr Mickleton, NJ 08056		Nicolosidanlele@gmail.com
1/12/2016 22:59:43	Nate Marino	124 E. Wolfert Station Rd.		aaa5960@comcast.net
1/12/2016 23:01:18	Angela Marino	124 E. Wolfert Station Rd.		aaa5960@comcast.net
1/13/2016 1:14:00	Ginny Newkirk	17 Clover Ridge Dr, Mickelson NJ	Treat E. Greenwich Kingsway Districts fairly	sngn@verizon.net
1/13/2016 6:16:43	Rachel Koll	48 Linden Ave., Mantua NJ 08051	I will soon be moving to East Greenwich. I would like for this funding situation to be reviewed.	rkoll327@yahoo.com
1/13/2016 6:19:19	Richard Tighe	25 Weatherby Avenue	I think its time to start voting for common sense politicians	rtighe@comcast.net
1/13/2016 6:56:39	Larry Green	708 Union Rd	Stop the nonsense and be fair!	lrygm@comcast.net
1/13/2016 7:13:05	Kelsey Minniti	238 Smallwood Drive Mickleton NJ 08056		donnafonte@aol.com
1/13/2016 7:23:30	Donna M Fonte	109 Quail Ridge Way, Mickleton, NJ		lawrence.c.stephens.iii@gmail.com
1/13/2016 7:32:15	Larry Stephens	46 W Cohawkin Rd Clarksboro, NJ 08020	Please consider fair distribution	G.malesich@yahoo.com
1/13/2016 8:09:34	Greg Malesich	233 Smallwood dr mickleton nj 08056		jdcostanzo@comcast.net
1/13/2016 8:58:37	John Costanzo	20 Polo Run Mickleton NJ 08056	Funding is necessary to produce well rounded students	Dr.frazier@gmail.com
1/13/2016 9:22:19	Dr. Ira V. Frazier	56 Brandywine Dr. East Greenwich, NJ	Do what is fair and right to all school districts. The State shouldn't be biased as to one district over another.	ladydl655@comcast.net
1/13/2016 9:27:22	Diane M. King	39 Cedar Rd		s.skabicki@verizon.net
1/13/2016 9:40:06	stanley skabicki	5 weatherby ave		
1/13/2016 9:51:07	William L. Bowe	153 E Wolfert Station Rd, Mickleton NJ 08056		
1/13/2016 9:52:11	Sylvia A. Bowe	153 E Wolfert Station Rd, Mickleton NJ 08056		
1/13/2016 9:52:35	Gary Turk	204 Bryson's Way, Mt. Royal, NJ 08061		
1/13/2016 9:55:11	Patrick Faulkner	207 Brysons Way	Fair is Fair	pfault@gmail.com
1/13/2016 10:02:40	Robert Wilgus	206 Brysons Way Mount Royal NJ 08061		
1/13/2016 10:03:34	Robert Wilgus	206 Brysons Way Mount Royal NJ 08061		
1/13/2016 10:05:17	Fran Wilgus	89 Gaunt Dr Mickleton NJ 08056		
1/13/2016 10:35:14	Frank Carfagno	12 Tollgate Road, Mickleton 08056		fcarfagno@comcast.net
1/13/2016 10:42:27	Thomas Strifren	209 Brysons Way Mount Royal, NJ 08061		lenpurz@gmail.com
1/13/2016 10:57:13	Leonard Purzycki	521 Meadow Ridge Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		denssb@comcast.net
1/13/2016 11:19:49	Dennis Ballance	11 GARWOOD BLVD	GIVE OUR STUDENTS A FAIR CHANCE	
1/13/2016 11:42:00	Stephen	Jardel		
1/13/2016 13:04:19	Maria Sullivan	103 Cypress Lane Mickleton, NJ 08056	I have lived in East Greenwich for 40 years. Now I am a senior citizen on a fixed income who must pick up the burden because East Greenwich Schools and Kingsway Regional are extremely underfunded!! That is not fair.	polkadots@comcast.net
1/13/2016 13:06:43	Nicole Puskar	391 Concetta Dr, Mount Royal, NJ 08061		nicolepuskar@yahoo.com
1/13/2016 13:45:33	Patrick M Driver	25 Shady Lane Rd. Clarksboro NJ 08010		
1/13/2016 13:49:30	melissa doyne	165 hollybush gardens glassboro nj 08028	it is a disgrace how south Jersey schools are being taken care of	mellisawanson82@yahoo.com
1/13/2016 14:15:53	Joanne Nayale	55 Brandywine Dr.		natalejm@yahoo.com
1/13/2016 14:17:21	Sarah Gloeckner	314 w crossing dr Mount Royal NJ	Please act now	Sigloeck@yahoo.com

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Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
1/13/2016 14:17:55	Michael Natale	55 Brandywine Dr.		natalejm@yahoo.com
1/13/2016 14:48:44	Ana Woolston	329 Carriage Drive, Mount Royal, NJ 08061		bridget@collins-home.net
1/13/2016 14:57:20	Bridget Collins	5 Campbell Court Mickleton NJ 08056		dbobo31@hotmail.com
1/13/2016 16:08:37	Donald Rambo	105 Brynwood Ct Mickleton, NJ 08056		Kate_frat@yahoo.com
1/13/2016 18:05:22	Kathryn Pacewicz	706 Nicole Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		mikemccune1@comcast.net
1/13/2016 20:31:00	Michael McCune	52 Providence Road, Mickleton, NJ		gagro@verizon.net
1/13/2016 20:42:39	Richard Gaglianone	416 Birch Drive	Do the right thing now please	smyersrn@juno.com
1/13/2016 21:03:24	Sonia Myers	210 Leonard Avenue Clarksboro, NJ 08020		donnagabler2@comcast.net
1/13/2016 21:11:26	Christina Pierce	115 West Wolfert Station Rd Mickleton, NJ 08056		Jmwolfhfarth@gmail.com
1/13/2016 21:46:19	Donna Gabler	30 New Oak Rd	I think this issue is very important	
1/13/2016 23:04:38	James wohlfarth	266 dogwood lane Clarksboro		
1/14/2016 7:02:41	Ruth Eastlack	323 Fox Chase Rd		jackieg100@comcast.net
1/14/2016 7:04:19	David Eastlack	323 Fox Chase Rd, Clarksboro, NJ		
1/14/2016 7:53:55	Henry & Jacqueline Geis	100 Brookhollow Ct.	You are overtaxing the residents in three age-restricted communities that have no children in the school systems!	jdixeyjill15502@comcast.net
1/14/2016 9:26:23	John & Nancy Dixey	449 Country Way		Kellym.tedesco@gmail.com
1/14/2016 10:42:35	Kelly Tedesco	88 Weatherwane Dr Mount Royal, NJ 08061		Kellym.tedesco@gmail.com
1/14/2016 10:42:50	Kelly Tedesco	88 Weatherwane Dr Mount Royal, NJ 08061		ghcm@comcast.net
1/14/2016 11:05:29	Grace	Mickleton, NJ	You are cheating schools as you have cheated retired teachers.	psmontgomery@comcast.net
1/14/2016 11:21:43	Patrick S Montgomery	Mickleton, NJ		Khercker@yahoo.com
1/14/2016 13:18:01	Krystin hercker	142 west wolfert station road mickleton rd 08056		arborrita@comcast.net
1/14/2016 16:01:29	Rita Bruner	69 Gaunt Drive	sr. citizens should be given a break on school taxes	
1/14/2016 16:05:17	Robert B. Brady	55 Curtmantle Rd.	This is one of the big reasons why people can't afford to stay in E. G. Maybe tell the state that I'm only able to part some of my taxes. Where is Sen. Sweeney on this issue?	Bobbrady5@gmail.com
1/14/2016 17:05:28	Joseph C. Morris	289 Dogwood Lane		Jomorris7@gmail.com
1/14/2016 18:18:31	Natalie M Medaugh	15 Marino Drive	I want school funding to be distributed fairly please. I whole heartedly endorse the above petition	nataliemedaugh@gmail.com
1/14/2016 18:19:34	Meade G Medaugh, Sr.	15 Marino Drive Clarksboro, NJ	I endorse the above petition request	nataliemedaugh@gmail.com
1/14/2016 18:21:08	Meade G Medaugh, Jr.	15 Marino Drive Clarksboro, NJ	I endorse the above petition request	
1/14/2016 20:19:17	Joseph Wiedmayer	204 Sullivan Drive Mickleton, NJ		jfwiedmayer@gmail.com
1/14/2016 20:19:57	Melissa Wiedmayer	204 Sullivan Drive Mickleton, NJ		mrandmrsweeds@gmail.com
1/14/2016 20:50:27	Janice Gibson	71 E Tomlin Station Road Mickleton N J	This lack of funding not only hurts the students and parents of the East Greenwich and Kingsway school districts, it also hurts the senior citizens who are on limited incomes! Please act now to adequately fund East Greenwich and Woolwich school districts!	Skpgibson@yahoo.com
1/14/2016 21:16:48	Stephanie Cosentino	319 carriage drive, Mount Royal nj		Bwmanzta@yahoo.com
1/15/2016 11:01:26	Jenny Greco	349 Carriage Drive, Mount Royal NJ 08061		jfgreco1@comcast.net
1/15/2016 11:02:01	Anthony Greco	349 Carriage Drive, Mount Royal NJ 08061		jfgreco1@comcast.net
1/15/2016 18:28:59	Stephanie Cosentino	319 carriage drive, Mount Royal nj		Bwmanzta@yahoo.com
1/16/2016 8:30:55	Albert Michal	216 Bartlett Drive Mickleton, NJ 08056		albmic@ gmail.com
1/16/2016 10:26:48	Michael Hall	825 Deritus Drive		mikevnhall@gmail.com
1/16/2016 10:59:24	Chris Hamer	213 Waterbury Ct. Mount Royal, NJ 08061		christopherhamer@gmail.com
1/16/2016 11:09:22	John Hickey	203 Smallwood Drive Mickleton, NJ 08056	This town is becoming too expensive to live due to the local school taxes. We work hard and pay our taxes and all we ask is to be treated equally by our state government.	johnhickey@me.com

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Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
1/16/2016 11:09:38	John Hickey	203 Smallwood Drive Mickleton, NJ 08056	This town is becoming too expensive to live due to the local school taxes. We work hard and pay our taxes and all we ask is to be treated equally by our state government.	johnhickey@me.com
1/16/2016 21:31:54	Aleksandar Mirkovic	216 Sullivan Dr. Mickleton, NJ 08056		Aleks.mirkovic@yahoo.com
1/16/2016 23:38:56	MaryJo Sabatini	4 Garwood Blvd clarksboro	make the funding fair for all school districts	fudo10@hotmail.com
1/17/2016 7:59:30	Denise Cinousis	85 deer horn drive		
1/18/2016 10:18:33	Judith Rosen	51 Brown Ter. Clarksboro nj 08020	The local salaries and in my case retirement income do not support the unfair school tax burden placed on our residents. I am committed to keeping our school system great, but we really need a fair share of state tax money allocated to our schools.	jrose51@comcast.net
1/18/2016 11:03:44	Karey Kidd	823 Derlius Drive mickleton nj		Kareykidd@gmail.com
1/18/2016 21:01:53	Ann Larwa	100 Sunset Dr 08061		alanwa04@yahoo.com
1/18/2016 21:24:23	Delphine Mundorf	12 Curriden Avenue, Clarksboro, NJ 08020		mibrant@comcast.net
1/19/2016 8:32:16	Mary Lynn Brand	121 Weatherlane Drive, Mount Royal, NJ 08061	Please properly fund our schools!	rc.brand@comcast.net
1/19/2016 8:33:17	Raymond Brand	121 Weatherlane Drive, Mount Royal, NJ 08061	Please properly fund our schools!	
1/19/2016 19:18:14	Alfred Malinoski	38 Democrat Road, Mickleton, NJ 08056	This a very good idea, Since our governor is out of state lately, you may want use the power of news media and television reporting to help this cause.	malinoski38@comcast.net
1/20/2016 23:49:35	Elin K Smith	330 Barbara Drive		elinksmith@gmail.com
1/21/2016 7:03:37	Matthew Ellison	374 West Crossing Dr.	As a resident for seven years, I've gone from glowing reviews of the school system, to being very concerned about the quality of their Special Services, and the resources necessary to provide a decent school experience throughout the day! I have professional experience throughout South Jersey working in Special Services in many districts and attribute the declines primarily to funding, not staffing or misallocation of school funds. Please lend reconsideration to the Percent of Uncapped Aid due East Greenwich Public Schools in East Greenwich and Kingsway Regional School District in Woolwich. Thank you!	mae0001@comcast.net
1/21/2016 20:08:19	Karl Marshall	115 Sronham way Mickleton nj		karlmarshall@comcast.net
1/24/2016 9:18:21	John Lewis	139 W. Tomlin Station Rd Mickleton NJ	Fair Funding	tlewis136@comcast.net
1/24/2016 16:33:30	Carmen Marrero	242 Bartlett Drive, Mickleton NJ 08056		Rojmar@aol.com
1/25/2016 8:30:10	Janet Weber	106 Acorn Drive, Mount Royal, NJ 08061		salementiere9154@gmail.com
1/25/2016 10:53:53	ElVia carmona	97 Oakridge dr Mount Royal, nj 08061		klydsbonny@aol.com
1/29/2016 9:35:02	Nicole Puskar	391 Conceita Dr, Mt Royal, NJ 08061		Nicolepuskar@yahoo.com
1/29/2016 12:09:15	Robert Gould	243 Kings Highway Clarksboro NJ 08020	Please Properly Fund Our School Districts. Fair Funding!	rg14220@yahoo.com
2/3/2016 20:45:30	Kimberly	105 Laurel Wood DR.		
2/5/2016 9:26:25	Kristen Monteiro	6 Randolph Court	Please fund our schools properly	ksangel95@hotmail.com
2/5/2016 13:02:27	Laura DeCinque	21 New Oak Road Mickleton NJ 08056		ldecinque@comcast.net
2/9/2016 6:40:57	Danielle Nicolosi	808 Derlius Dr Mickleton NJ 08056		Nicolosidanielle@gmail.com
2/10/2016 14:16:43	Anthony Skalski	53 Forage Drive, Mickleton, NJ		tskai27@gmail.com
2/10/2016 14:17:49	Antonella Skalski	53 Forage Drive, Mickleton, NJ		tskai@comcast.net
2/10/2016 23:27:03	Mary Kay Croneberger	59 Currant Drive Clarksboro 08020	Our schools must be fully funded. Our students deserve this.	crone2248@aol.com
2/11/2016 13:12:39	Leigh C Simpson	8 Weatherby Avenue Clarksboro NJ 08020		lbwsimpson@gmail.com
2/11/2016 18:53:46	Joseph Regina	555 Partridge Court		joefregina@gmail.com
2/12/2016 16:42:20	Dolores Regina	555 Partridge Court Mickleton, NJ 08056		lorrie1147@comcast.net
2/13/2016 20:09:15	Andrea Woolley	46 Forage Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		
2/13/2016 20:09:30	Luke Woolley	46 Forage Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		
2/14/2016 15:59:26	Kevin M Foth	58 Forage Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		
2/15/2016 7:38:38	anthony negro	811 castleton drive	We are not asking for more funding, we are asking you to simply fund our schools at the levels you have set	anthonynegro@comcast.net

62x

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
2/18/2016 8:23:23	Richard Stinik	68 Woodbury Ct, Clarksboro		4coupons@comcast.net
2/18/2016 8:23:45	Mildred Stinik	68 Woodbury Ct, Clarksboro		4coupons@comcast.net
2/19/2016 15:28:39	bonnie archer	399 kings hwy mickleton nj 08056		bonnie.archer.email@gmail.com
2/23/2016 10:48:42	Dawn Underwood	354 W Crossing Drive, Mount Royal, NJ		
2/23/2016 10:49:10	Shawn Underwood	354 W Crossing Dr, Mount Royal, NJ		
2/23/2016 12:44:20	Walter Leavey	364 W. Crossing Drive Mt. Royal, NJ 08061		WaltLeavey.Jr@aol.com
3/5/2016 18:26:06	Raphael Altmann	844 Cymbeline Ct		Raltmann70@gmail.com
3/9/2016 20:46:26	Maria Estaballo	141 Tradewinds Drive Mount Royal,NJ, 08061	Please distribute to our schools our fair share of state funding!	RMBKE2001@AOL.COM
3/9/2016 20:50:10	Judith Rebanocos	93 Deer Horn Dr Mt Royal NJ	I support this petition	Judith.rebanocos @comcast.net
3/9/2016 20:50:30	Judith Rebanocos	93 Deer Horn Dr Mt Royal NJ		Judith.rebanocos @comcast.net
3/9/2016 20:50:35	Judith Rebanocos	93 Deer Horn Dr Mt Royal NJ		Judyberns@yahoo.com
3/9/2016 20:52:40	Bernard Rebanocos	93 deer horn drive. My. Royal nj		juveel@yahoo.com
3/9/2016 20:54:33	Juvil ESPINOLA	131 Evergreen Ct		woweet1220@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 11:38:50	Maureen Apat-Maningo	149 Dominion Dr., Mount Royal NJ 08061		jinni@comcast.net
3/10/2016 11:56:30	Regina Ninni	36 Shute Farm Lane, Clarksboro NJ 08020		mninni@comcast.net
3/10/2016 11:57:06	Michael Ninni	36 Shute Farm Lane, Clarksboro NJ 08020		Ljrosen918@hotmail.com
3/10/2016 12:00:58	Lisa Rosen	51 brown terrace. Clarksboro nj		Bridget.kaelin@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 12:01:26	Timothy Brown	171 Cedar Rd, Mickleton , NJ08056		Indrani609@gmail.com
3/10/2016 12:03:55	Indrani Hewsen-Luhigo	419 Concetta Dr		bobfaulkner58@comcast.net
3/10/2016 12:16:40	Robert Faulkner	226 Spruce Trail, Woolwich, NJ 08085	Please fund these schools properly.	Coachburke14@icloud.com
3/10/2016 12:16:44	Eric Hallman	163 prairie vie lane Mickleton no		Shelleys68@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 12:18:30	Brendan Burke	87 Sunset Dr. Mt. Royal NJ 08061		belthyfoley@comcast.net
3/10/2016 12:29:44	Dawn Hallman	163 prairie view lane, Mickleton		newjerseygang@gmail.com
3/10/2016 12:48:48	Shelley franz	15 east cohawkin rd clarksboro nj 08020		Timpentz@gmail.com
3/10/2016 13:01:12	Beth Foley	559 Partridge Ct Mickleton NJ 08056		jenniferlynnbriggs@gmail.com
3/10/2016 13:05:37	Daniella Murphy	152 Dominion Dr		Jawolfe@comcast.net
3/10/2016 13:13:21	Tim Pentz	264 Barney hawkin rd mickleton nj 08056		dmbott@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 13:16:42	Jennifer Briggs	148 Acorn Drive		Kbm722@aol.com
3/10/2016 13:17:15	Amanda Kennedy	213 Waterbury Ct, Mount Royal, NJ 08061		Kbm722@aol.com
3/10/2016 13:25:02	Jennifer Wolfinger	154 Tradewinds Drive		Melissablacklaw@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 13:47:22	Rich Young	731 Farmhouse Road	Fait	Walterbailey014@comcast.net
3/10/2016 13:50:31	Denise Bott	135 Patrick dr Woolwich NJ 08085		nevius20@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 13:51:47	Krista bender	228 Smallwood drive		monastel@comcast.net
3/10/2016 13:52:06	Andrew bender	228 Smallwood drive		apps106@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 13:55:35	Melissa Law	106 Juniper Ln woolwich		jamesmatteo@gmail.com
3/10/2016 13:57:11	Walt Bailey	14 linden st		dmpurvenas.hayes@gmail.com
3/10/2016 14:03:45	William Nevius	118 Tammy Lane, Mickleton, NJ 08056		
3/10/2016 14:04:55	Lina Monasterial	131 Oakridge Drive Mount Royal, NJ 08061		
3/10/2016 14:13:03	Tricia Appelbaum	106 Bunker Hill Dr Woolwich Township NJ 08085		
3/10/2016 14:19:00	James Matteo	4 Still Run Drive Mickleton NJ 08056		
3/10/2016 14:32:15	Desiree Purvenas-Hayes	757 Ratfling Run Road Mickleton NJ 08056		
3/10/2016 15:23:49	Lauta Reynolds	11 Styessant Drive	Please properly fund all of our schools. It's time to reassess the fair funding laws.	
3/10/2016 15:25:09	Deb Kelley	103 Sarah Dr Mickleton NJ 08056	Kingsway should be considered a higher percentage. We are growing at an astounding rate.	Debkelley1928@gmail.com
3/10/2016 15:40:40	Vincent Corabi	153 Windsor Way		vcorabi@gmail.com

63x

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
3/10/2016 16:04:41	Beth Foley	559 Partridge Ct Mickleton NJ 08056		bethfoley@comcast.net
3/10/2016 16:21:01	George Zimm	371 Kings Hwy. Mickleton NJ		
3/10/2016 16:26:51	Patricia Volpe	143 Sunset Dr Mt Royal, NJ		Triciamg72@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 16:49:30	Robbisse Sambucci	126 Sambar Lane Mt Royal NJ 08061		
3/10/2016 16:50:14	Gregory Sambucci	126 Sambar Lane Mt Royal NJ 08061		
3/10/2016 17:52:12	Steven LaRocca	137 Sunset Drive Mt. Royal, NJ	Please help to fund ours schools	34steven34@gmail.com
3/10/2016 18:20:35	Edward	DeStefano	Fairly fund our schools	Eadestef@gmail.com
3/10/2016 18:24:23	Carmen Marrero	242 Bartlett Drive, Mickleton NJ 08056	Give our schools the proper funding. Raising our property taxes to make up for the State's lack of appropriate funding is not fair.	rojmar@aol.com
3/10/2016 18:24:39	Carmen Marrero	242 Bartlett Drive, Mickleton NJ 08056	Give our schools the proper funding. Raising our property taxes to make up for the State's lack of appropriate funding is not fair.	rojmar@aol.com
3/10/2016 18:46:24	Kristie	LaRocca	137 Sunset Dr Mt Royal NJ	Kristie718@gmail.com
3/10/2016 18:47:15	Jodi Fearon	82 Harmony Road, Mickleton	It's time to address the problem! It's a major issue and our kids pay the price!	Judithfearon@gmail.com
3/10/2016 18:56:34	Michael Gibbs	402 Megan Drive Mickleton, NJ 08056		kturban@comcast.net
3/10/2016 18:56:36	Kevin Urban	120 Sunset Drive		
3/10/2016 18:59:55	James Mueller	291 Lea Court		
3/10/2016 19:00:28	Christine Wolosin	545 Morgan Drive Mickleton NJ 08056		Toonice@comcast.net
3/10/2016 19:11:44	Denise Cinousis	85 Deer Horn Drive Mount Royal NJ 08061		Deniselapps@hotmail.com
3/10/2016 19:39:49	Kristen Preziosi	110 Brynwood Ct Mickleton		
3/10/2016 19:53:27	Jeremy Tyers	109 Sunset Dr Mount Royal, NJ 08061		
3/10/2016 19:53:46	Jeremy Tyers	109 Sunset Dr Mount Royal, NJ 08061		
3/10/2016 20:00:35	Patti Pedrick	188 Maple Hill Dr., Woolwich Twp, NJ 08085		plabby@comcast.net
3/10/2016 20:35:13	Stephanie cosentino	319 carriage drive mount royal		
3/10/2016 20:58:46	Christine Leipert	300 W Crossing Drive, Mount Royal, nj	Please consider the increase in student population within the last five years which has a huge impact on the school district's needs.	Christine.leipert@gmail.com
3/10/2016 21:59:14	Rhodie Redulla	154 Dominion Drive, Mount Royal, NJ		rhodaredulla@yahoo.com
3/10/2016 22:01:01	William Soroka	42 Hancock Street; Swedesboro, NJ 08085		soroka2@comcast.net
3/10/2016 22:01:24	Martin Webb	568 Partridge CT, Mickleton, NJ 08056	All schools in the state should be funded evenly X amount per pupil.	martin.webb@gmail.com
3/11/2016 7:01:32	Cathy Davis	410 Greenwich St. Mickleton	Please fund East Greenwich and Kingsway district fairly.	cmdavis60@comcast.net
3/11/2016 9:37:09	Gregory Miller	69 Weatherwane Drive, Mt Royal 08061	Disgrace but then again so is Gov Christie.	Airmil38@comcast.net
3/11/2016 11:45:36	Jessica Laborde	537 Hereford Lane, Mickleton, NJ 08056	For goodness sakes, do the right thing!	pajessica@yahoo.com
3/11/2016 12:21:31	Irene Savidge	Mickleton New Jersey		
3/11/2016 12:22:14	Edward Savidge	Mickleton New Jersey		
3/11/2016 18:19:02	Stacey Clark	124 Robert Botto Way Clarksboro NJ, 08020		stace106@hotmail.com
3/11/2016 18:19:09	Stacey Clark	124 Robert Botto Way Clarksboro NJ, 08020		stace106@hotmail.com
3/12/2016 19:17:12	Sylvia Penamante	176 Windsor Way Mt. Royal, NJ		Sylviapenamante@gmail.com
3/12/2016 19:18:44	Brynda De Guzman	133 Acorn Drive Mt.,Royal,NJ 08061		
3/12/2016 19:20:01	Perry De Guzman	133 Acorn Drive Mt. Royal, NJ 08061		Perrypauld@yahoo.com
3/12/2016 20:46:43	Donald Rambo	105 Brynwood Ct Mickleton, NJ 08056		dbobo31@hotmail.com
3/14/2016 12:22:15	Cherie Davis	749 Farnhouse Rd, Mickleton, NJ 08056	We pay An Enormous amount and of Taxes, it's only fair to Fund the schools properly	Cedavis1069@comcast.net
4/1/2016 13:54:03	Paul Ferla	43 Forage Drive, Mickleton, NJ 08056		
4/10/2016 16:24:57	Dawn Taylor	215 Smallwood Drive		
4/18/2016 7:36:22	Annmarte Brown	818 Darius Drive		
4/18/2016 22:47:23	John Hedrick	247 Jennings Way, Mickleton NJ		ammrbrown15@gmail.com

Timestamp	Name	Address	Comment	Email Address
4/20/2016 6:41:50	Lisa Christopher	219 Bartlett Drive, Mickleton		Lchristopher05@gmail.com
4/20/2016 6:42:14	Anthony Christopher	219 Bartlett Drive, Mickleton		Acsurf@gmail.com
4/20/2016 10:33:56	Nicole Wallace	569 Partridge Ct		nicolepatriciawest@gmail.com
4/20/2016 20:54:54	Christina Kille	717 Farmhouse Rd mickleton NJ		
4/20/2016 20:55:56	Gary Kille	717 Farmhouse Rd mickleton NJ		Gkck@comcast.net
4/25/2016 22:01:04	Tracey Guinup	837 union road	it's a disgrace. it needs to be fixed	traceygnp@aol.com
11/16/2016 17:21:06	trevor lacy	6 colonial drive		raybax@comcast.net

05X

Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness Public Hearing

Thank you for this opportunity to represent the Quinton Township School District, which is located in rural Salem County.

Our district works diligently to deliver a comprehensive educational program for our students within the constraints of the budget. Every staff member wears numerous hats and we work together as one unit to ensure that students receive the targeted and differentiated instruction required to optimize academic, emotional and social growth.

The Quinton Township School District has been able to make great strides by optimizing our minimal amount of

resources (Discretionary expenses make a little less than three-percent of our budget) to ensure that our staff members and students are receiving the necessary tools.

Our district has applied for and received numerous grants to fill some of the already existing gaps. Over the past three years we have applied for and received several local grants, which are competitive and not guaranteed. The grant funds have enabled the district to hold a summer enrichment program for our most at-risk students to assist with the summer slide, increase our school district's security system, enhance our existing fine and performing arts offerings and provide after school and weekend activities for our middle school population.

With the allowable two-percent tax levy cap increase of approximately \$48,000 Quinton Township already faces budget cuts on a yearly basis and strives to maintain current programming.

Having full knowledge of the budgetary constraints, I, just as many other employees who serve in the Quinton Township School District, wear many hats: staff evaluations, PARCC coordinator (3-8), curriculum coordinator, crossing guard, grant writer, professional development coordinator, serve on the DEAC, SCIP, SIT, School Safety and Crisis Teams, District 504 Coordinator, etc.

We are doing the best that we can to make the most of the funds that district is afforded each year. Our first round of PARCC scores proved to be among the highest across the state with regard to the

Demographic Factor Group A and data to support this statement is included within your packets. Our district scores proved to be in alignment, if not higher than, other school districts in higher DFGs around the state. The point that I want to make is that we are making progress and want to continue to do so.

If the Fairness Formula proposed by Governor Christie were to come to fruition our district would lose approximately 1.2 million dollars in state aid. Such a drastic cut would cause devastation to our existing program. We operate with minimal personnel and resources as it is and I am here today to support adequate school funding to ensure that the students of Quinton Township, as well as other underfunded districts around our state, are treated fairly and have the same opportunities as others. Thank you.

Quinton Township Board of Education



**2016-2017 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 28, 2016**

Mission Statement



We, the collective members of the Quinton Township School and its community, aspire to provide every student with access to equal educational opportunities.

In order to realize this mission, our teachers and staff pledge to serve as advocates who:

- *provide a caring, safe, nurturing environment.**
- *establish a challenging and diverse learning climate in which every student's needs are met, exceeded, and supported.**
- *embrace high expectations that all children can flourish as successful learners.**

As a result of our advocacy, we aspire to develop students who:

- *demonstrate advanced proficiency in accordance with the Core Curriculum Content Standards.**
- *are self-motivated life-long learners.**
- *understand the perspective of others despite their differences.**
- *exhibit mutual respect while collaborating to achieve a goal.**
- *are empowered learners who can thrive in an ever-changing global society.**

This mission is embodied in the philosophy that school is not just about children; it encompasses families, parents, community, stakeholders, society, the environment and the world.

Budget Goals



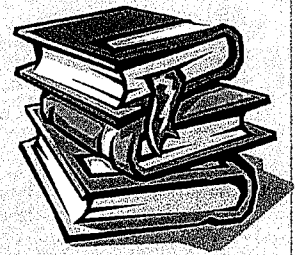
- Maintain status in Salem County as a **High Achieving School District**.
- Maintain a teaching staff that **provides effective coverage** of all mandated CCCS and CCSS.
- Maintain administrative staff to provide **continued support** for instructional improvement, student safety and a positive and productive learning environment.
- Maintain our paraprofessional staff to **meet Special Education, Basic Skills, and Early Childhood needs** in a cost effective manner.

Our Budget Supports...

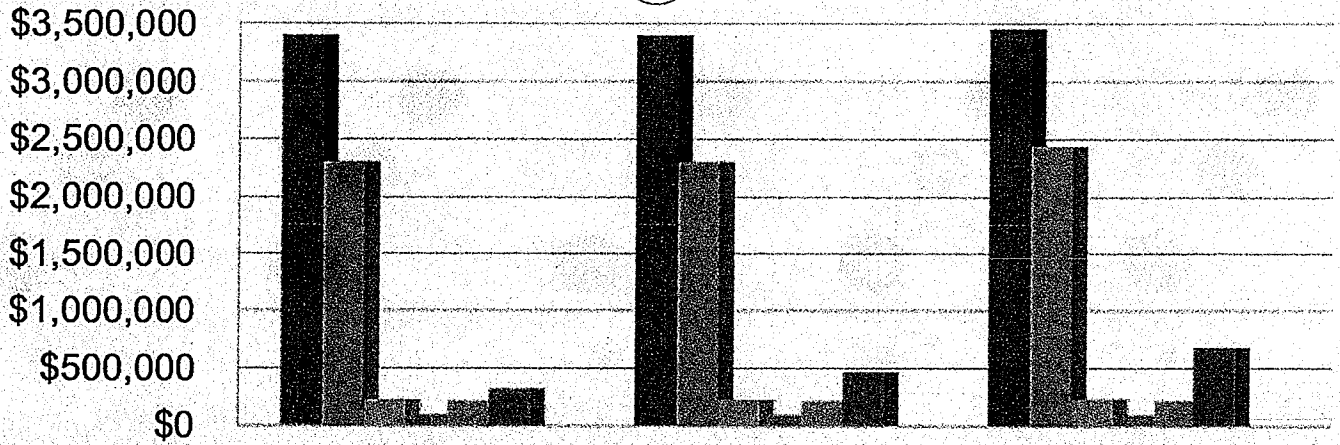


- **Staffing Levels & Programs Including**

- Full day Preschool and Kindergarten Programs
- Mandated Support Services (CST, I&RS, BSI, Counselor)
- Full Range of Special Area Programs including Art, Music, Spanish, Physical Education, Health (Gr 6-8) & Computers
- Continued Support of the Revised Teacher Evaluation System (AchieveNJ)
- Professional Development
- Reading Recovery Program
- After-School Support Programs
(Homework Center, Math Tutoring, Literacy Tutoring)
- Curriculum and Materials that are current & aligned with CCSS



Revenues for the Past 3 Years

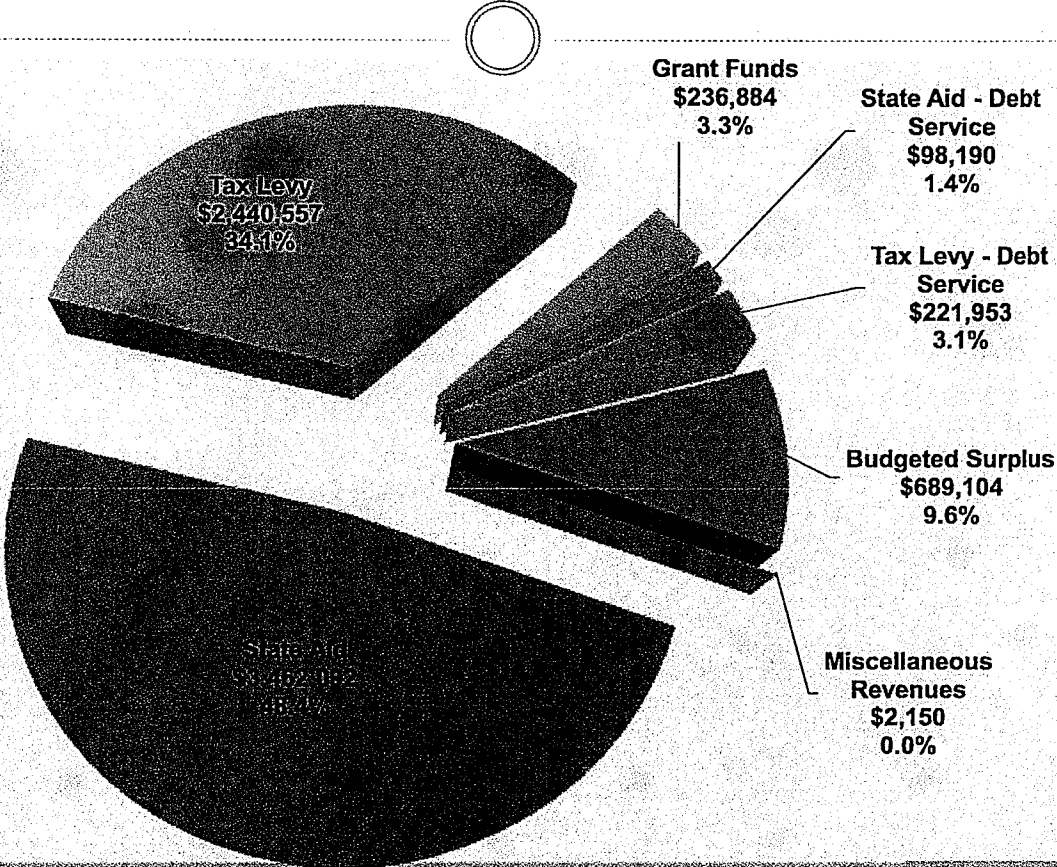


	14-15 budget	15-16 budget	16-17 budget
■ State Aid	\$3,406,510	\$3,400,194	\$3,462,092
■ Tax Levy	\$2,307,609	\$2,307,609	\$2,440,557
■ Grant Funds	\$231,536	\$224,714	\$236,884
■ State Aid-Debt	\$99,470	\$97,845	\$98,190
■ Tax Levy-Debt	\$220,343	\$219,768	\$221,953
■ Budgeted Surplus	\$327,217	\$470,185	\$689,104
■ Misc Revenue	\$2,150	\$2,150	\$2,150

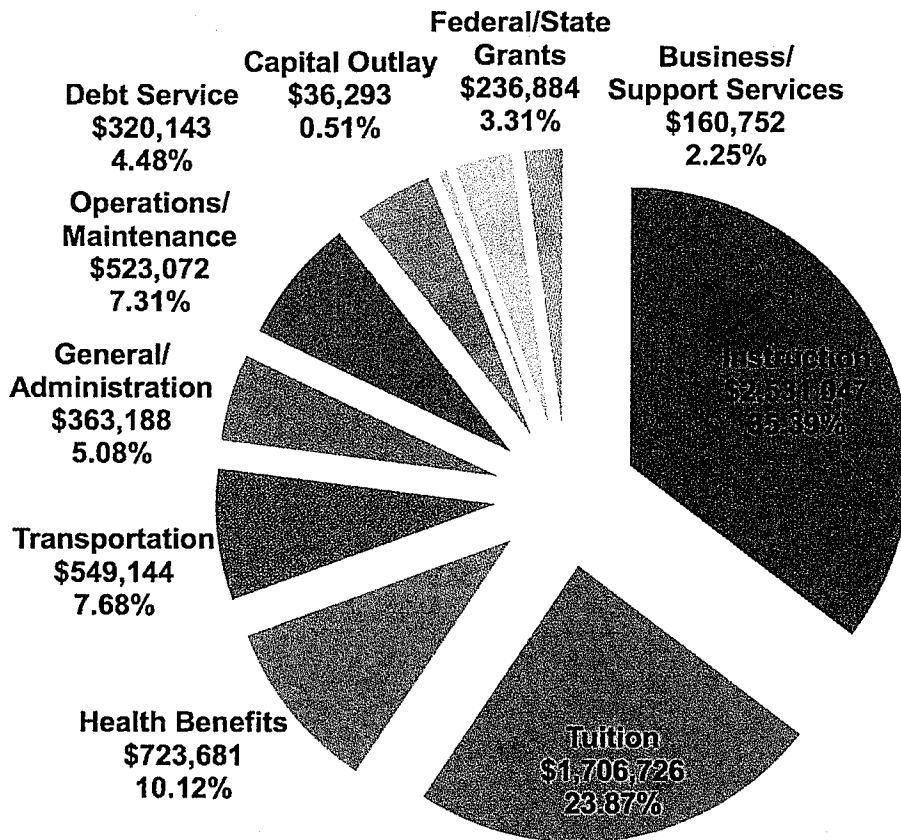
2016-2017 State Aid

	2015-16	2016-17	Inc/(Dec)
General Fund Aid	\$3,400,194	\$3,462,092	\$61,898
Special Revenue Aid	\$65,714	\$54,384	(\$11,330)
Debt Service Aid	\$97,845	\$98,190	\$345
Total State Aid	\$3,563,753	\$3,614,666	\$50,913
Assessment for Debt Service on SDA Funding	(\$36,143)	(\$36,143)	\$0
Grand Total Aid Payable	\$3,527,610	\$3,578,523	\$50,913
Total Increase in State Aid		\$50,913	0.02%

Where does the money come from?

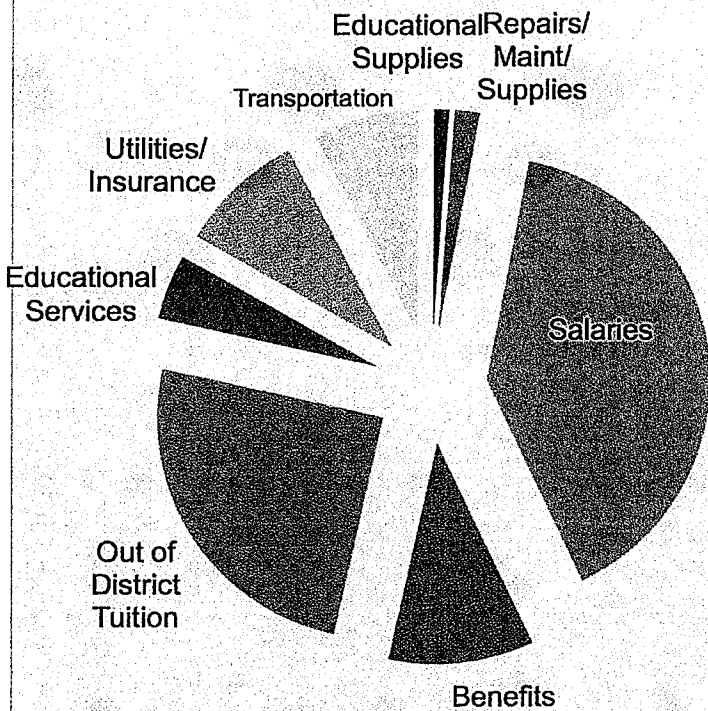


Where does all the money go?



Total District Net Budget \$7,150,930

Discretionary vs. Fixed Expenses



Discretionary Expenses:

Educational Supplies	\$ 80,187	1.12%
Repairs/Maint/Supplies	\$ 131,500	1.84%
Total Discretionary Expenses	\$ 211,687	2.96%

Fixed Expenses:

Salaries	\$2,858,175	39.97%
Benefits	\$ 753,061	10.53%
Out of District Tuition	\$1,793,226	25.08%
Educational Services	\$ 339,381	4.75%
Utilities/Insurance	\$ 651,256	9.11%
Transportation	\$ 544,144	7.61%
Total Fixed Expenses	\$6,939,243	97.04%

Total 2016-2017 Budget \$7,150,930

Budget Constraints



- **Salem High School Tuition \$1,004,543.**
- **Salem County Vo Tech Tuition \$271,521.**
- **Out-of District Special Education Costs \$430,662.**
- **Transportation Costs.**
- **Contracted Health Benefit and Prescription Cost Increases.**
- **Assessment for Debt Service on SDA Funding**

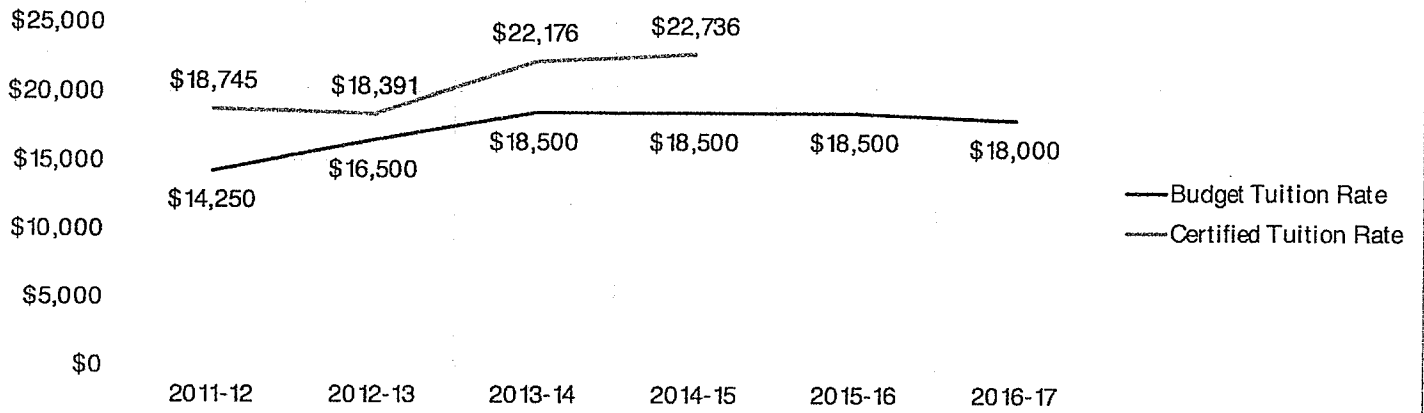
Tuition Analysis

Salem Tuition:	2015-16	2016-17	Difference Inc/(Dec)
Full Time	\$629,000	\$828,000	\$199,000
Shared Time	\$0	\$9,000	\$9,000
Tuition Adjustment	(\$10,134)	\$84,333	\$94,467
Resource Room	<u>\$25,400</u>	<u>\$83,210</u>	<u>\$57,810</u>
Salem Tuition Total	\$644,266	\$1,004,543	\$360,277
Estimated # Students	34	46.5	12.5
Tuition Rate per Student	\$18,500	\$18,000	(\$500)
Resource Room Hours	1,000	3,276	2,276
Resource Room Rate	\$25.40	\$25.40	\$0

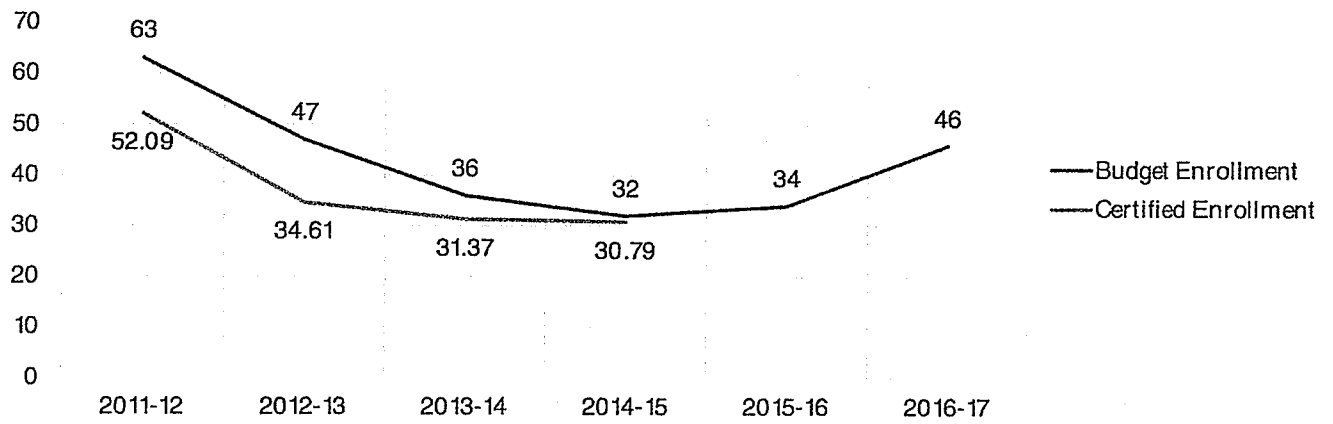
Tuition Analysis Cont'd

Vo Tech Tuition:	2015-16	2016-17	Difference Inc/(Dec)
Resident Students	\$237,500	\$239,825	\$2,325
Tuition Adjustment	<u>\$28,886</u>	<u>\$31,696</u>	<u>\$2,810</u>
Vo Tech Tuition Total	\$266,386	\$271,521	\$5,135
Estimated # Students	95	90.5	(4.5)
Tuition Rate per Student	\$2,500	\$2,650	\$150
Out Of District Special Education Tuition:	2015-16	2016-17	Difference Inc/(Dec)
Full Time Students	\$382,901	\$430,662	\$47,761
Estimated # Students	11	13	2

Salem Tuition Analysis

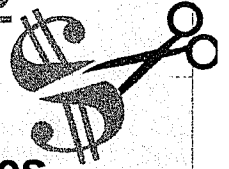


Salem Enrollment Analysis



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Measures to DECREASE Tax Rate



- **Use of Grants to Fully or Partially Fund Salaries**

- One Early Childhood Teacher (PK)(PSEA - \$54,384)
- 1Part-time Basic Skills Teacher (NCLB - \$28,750)
- Four Basic Skills Instructional Aides (NCLB - \$48,000)

Total \$131,134 (6.91 cents savings)

- **Use of Grants to Fund Professional Development Costs and Substitute Fees**

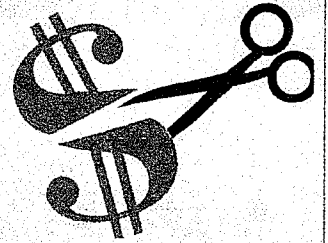
- In-District Workshops (NCLB - \$13,000)

Total \$13,000 (0.69 cents savings)

Measures to DECREASE Tax Rate Cont'd



- **\$689,104 from Surplus to offset taxes**
(36.31 cents savings)
- **\$221,060 from Choice Program Aid**
(11.65 cents savings)
- **Shared Services**
 - Professional Development
 - Technology Services & Support
 - Transportation
 - Joint Purchasing (Supplies, Paper, etc)
 - Participate in E-Rate, ACT, ACES, ERIC South, State Health Insurance



Total Tax Savings of more than 55.56 Cents

Tax Levy

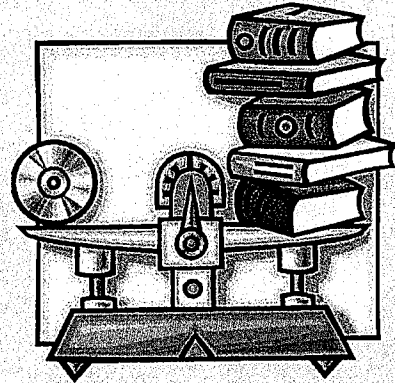


- **Total Tax Levy Increase**

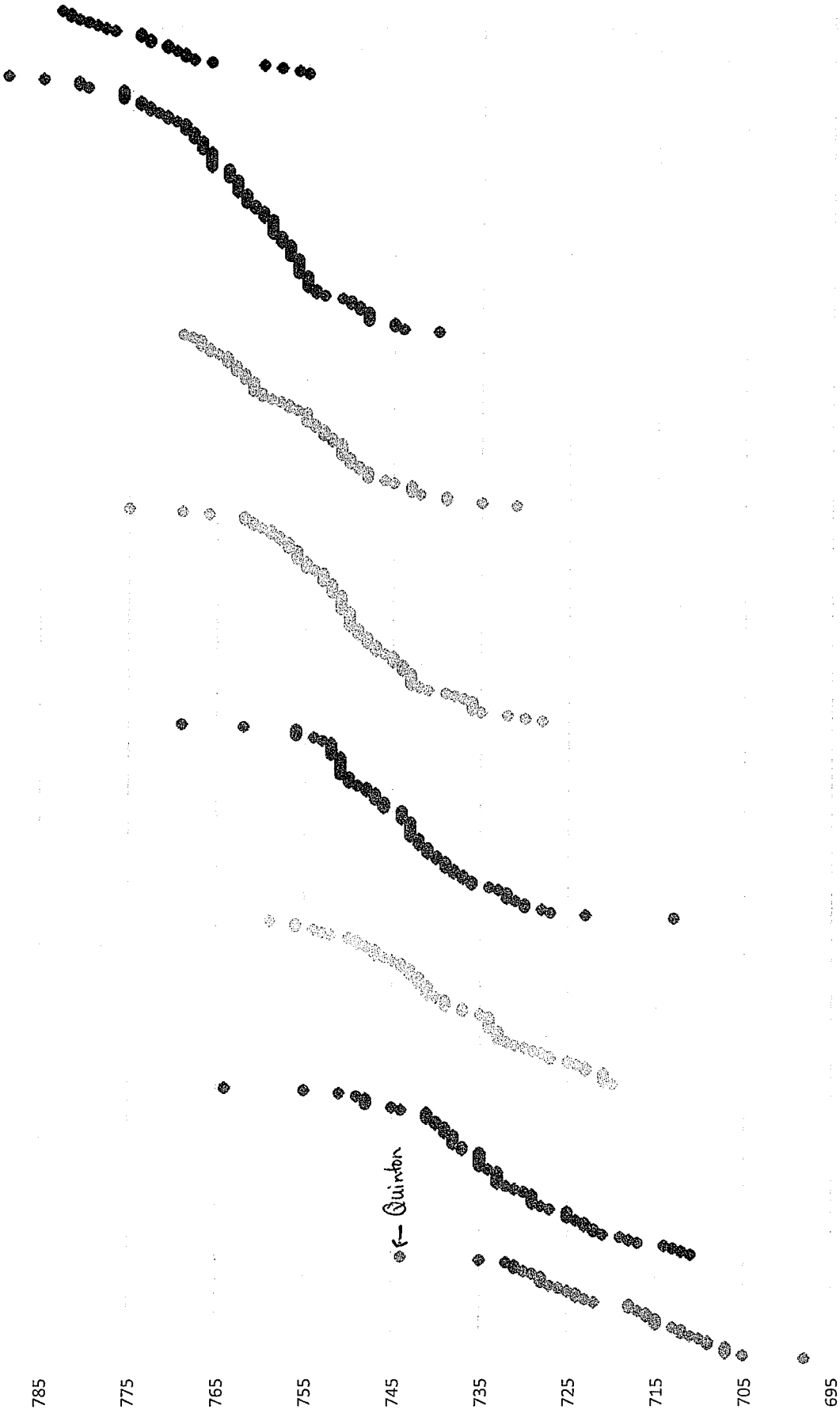
(including debt service)

0.034 Cents over the 2015-2016 budget, an average increase of \$57.66 per household (\$161,389) or **\$.16 per day**

(**0.017¢** increase for July to December 2015 and then **0.017¢** increase for January to June 2016.)

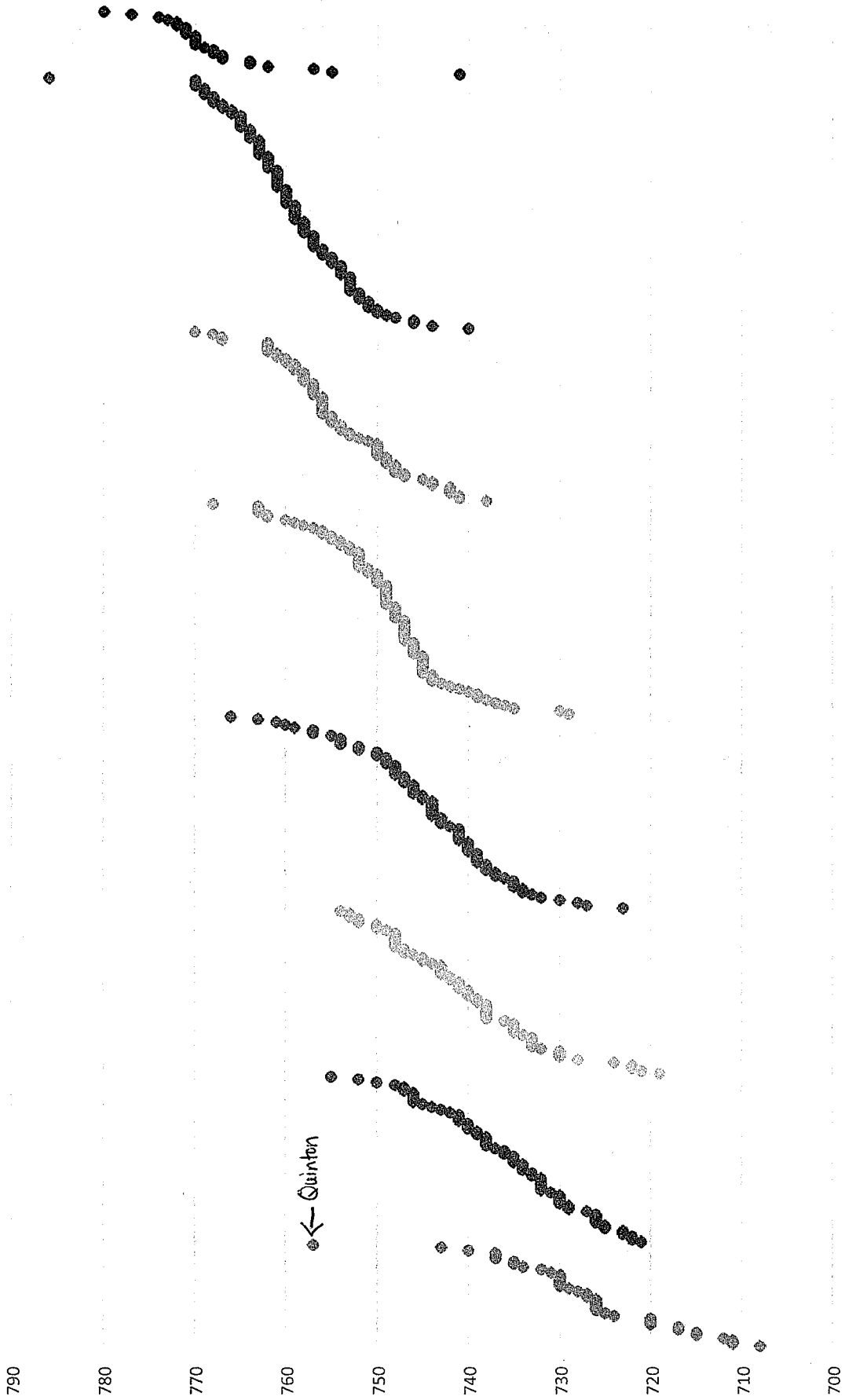


LA - Grade 3



• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

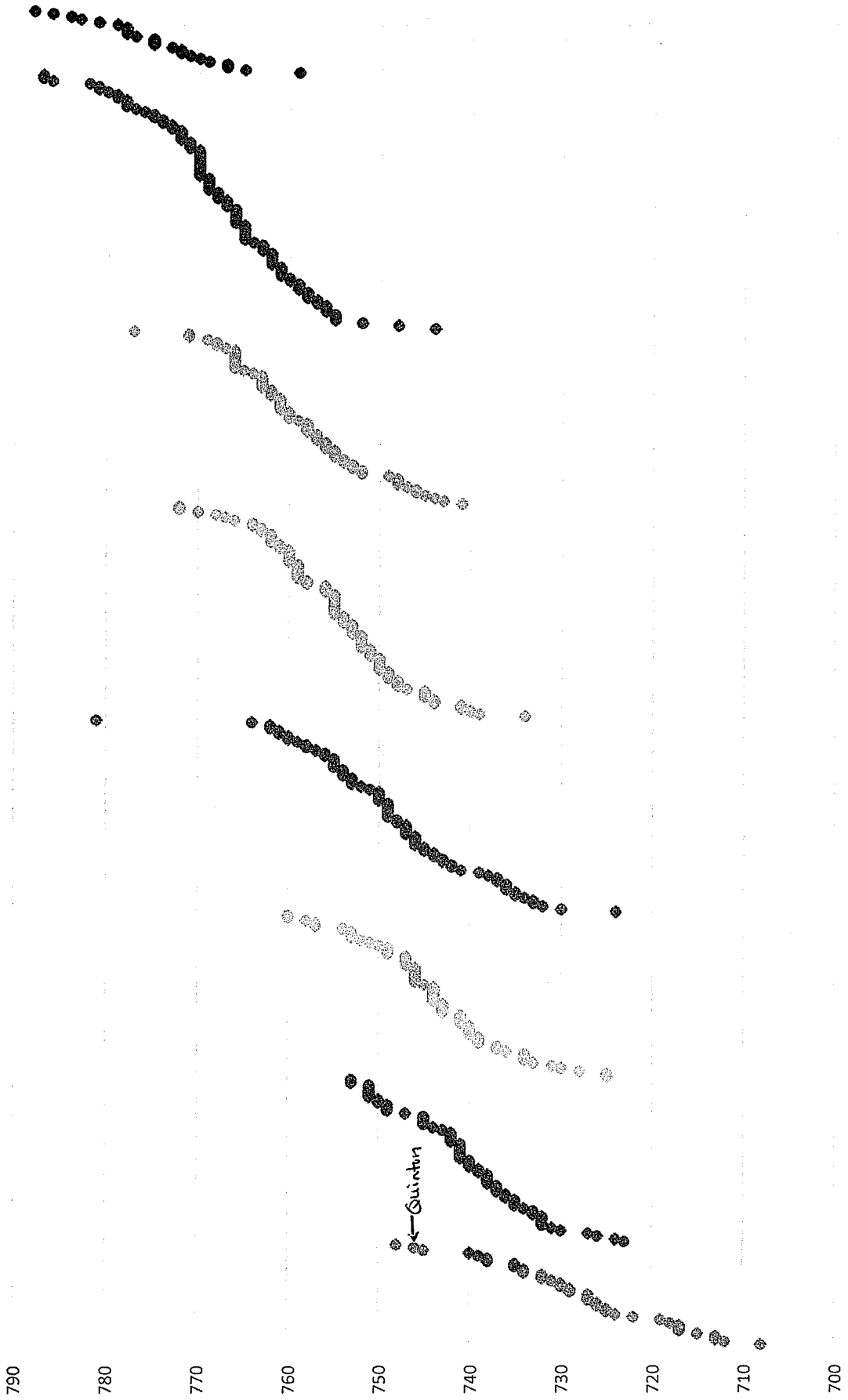
Math - Grade 3



• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

87+

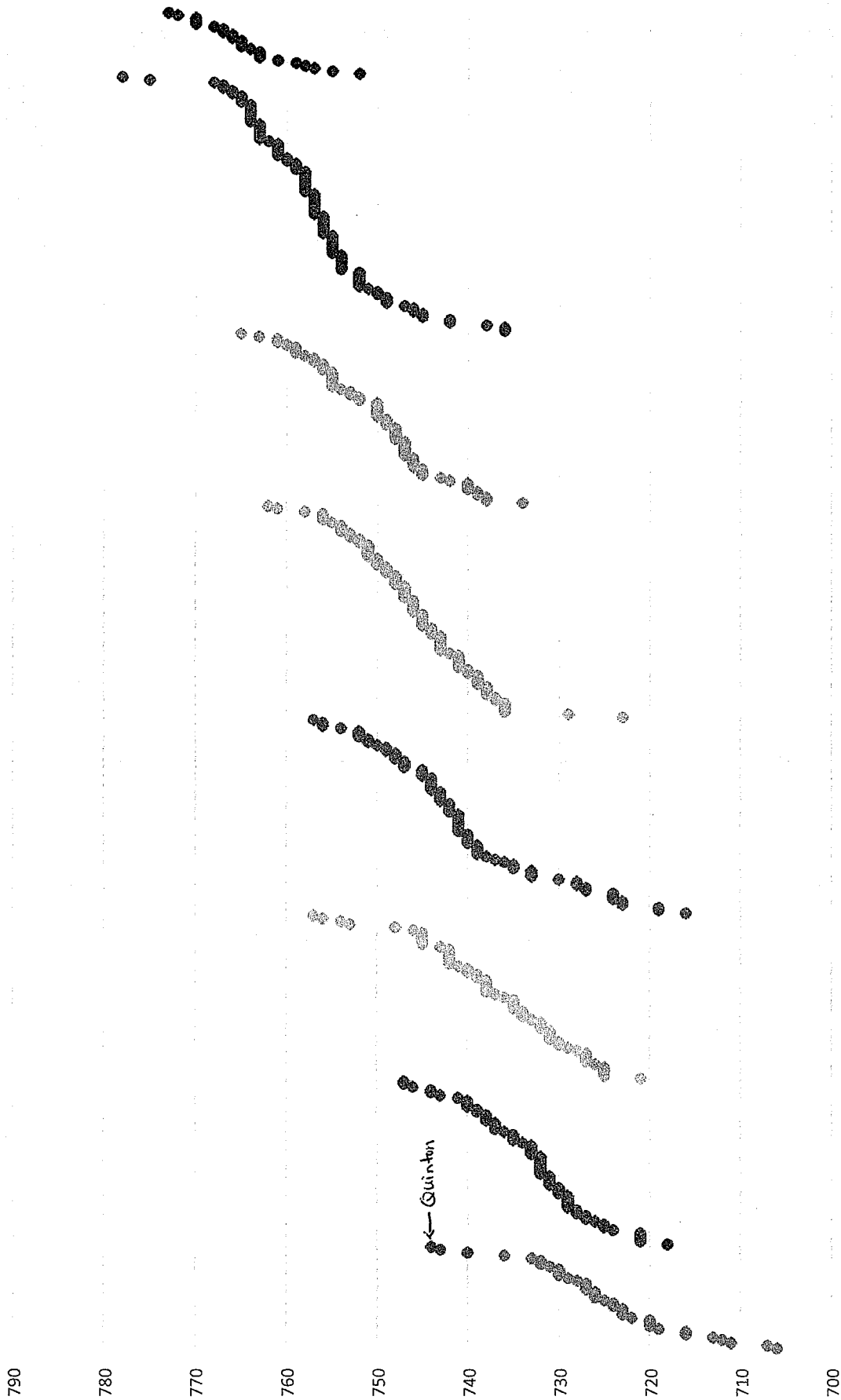
LA - Grade 4



• A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J

884

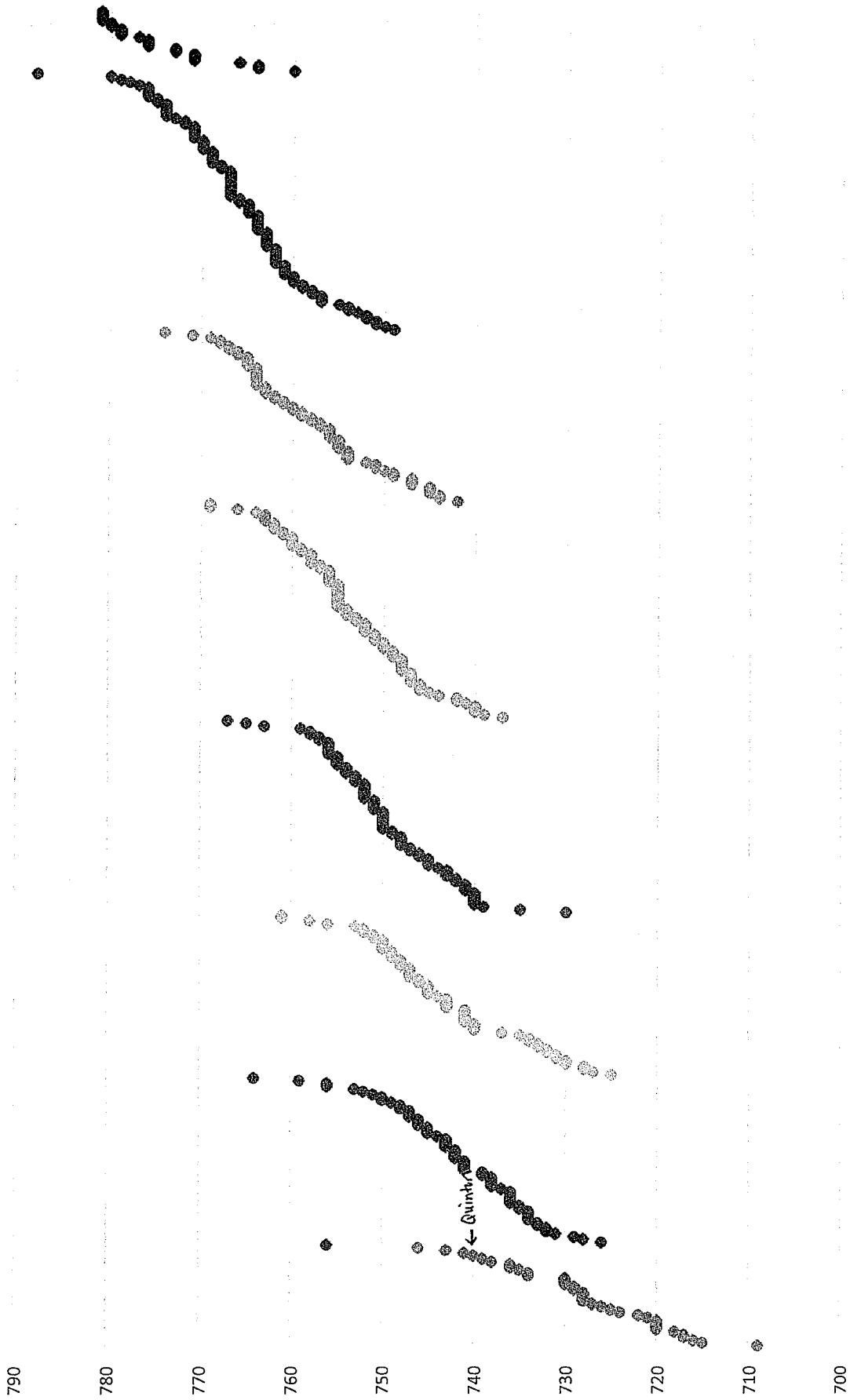
Math - Grade 4



894

• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

LA - Grade 5



• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

Math - Grade 5

790

780

770

760

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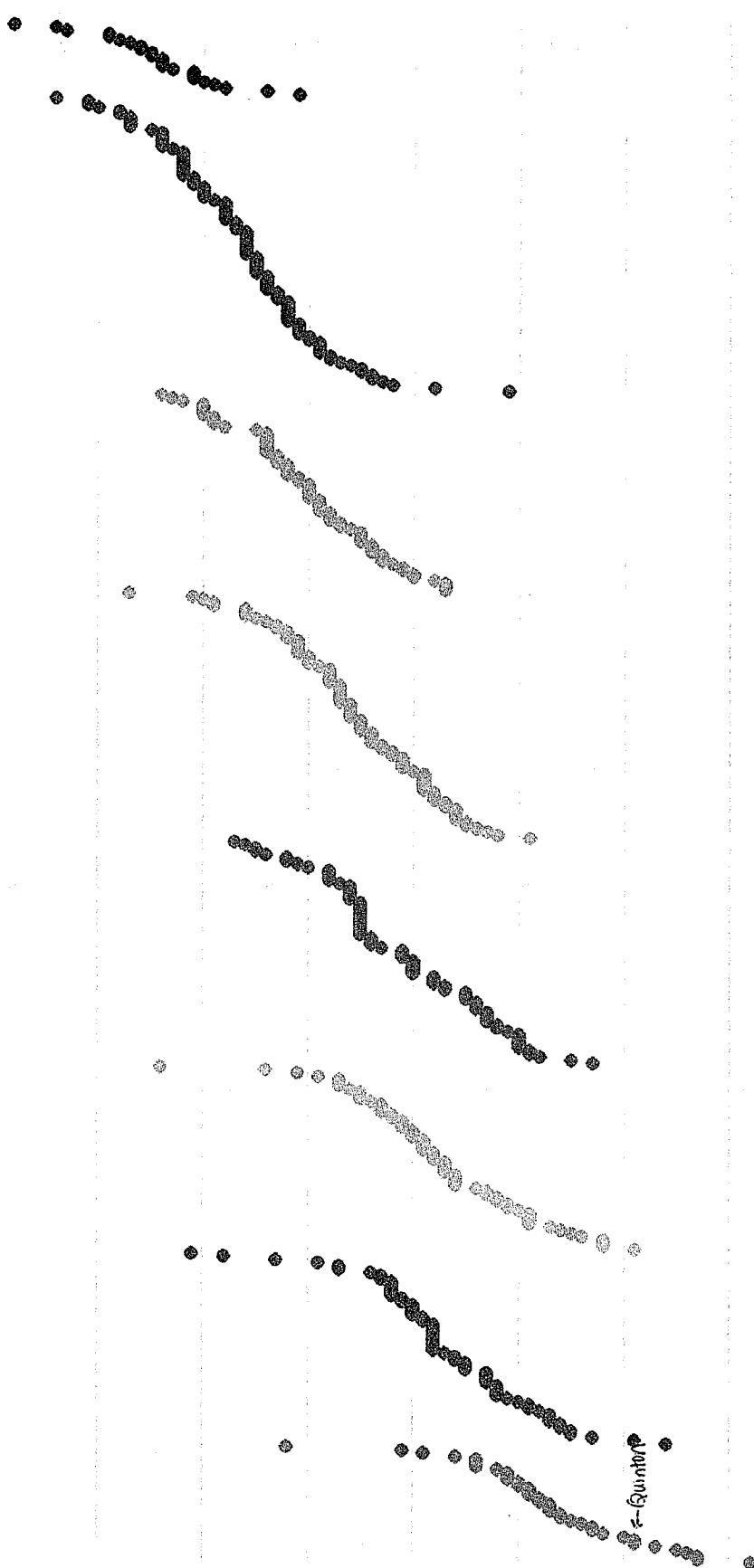
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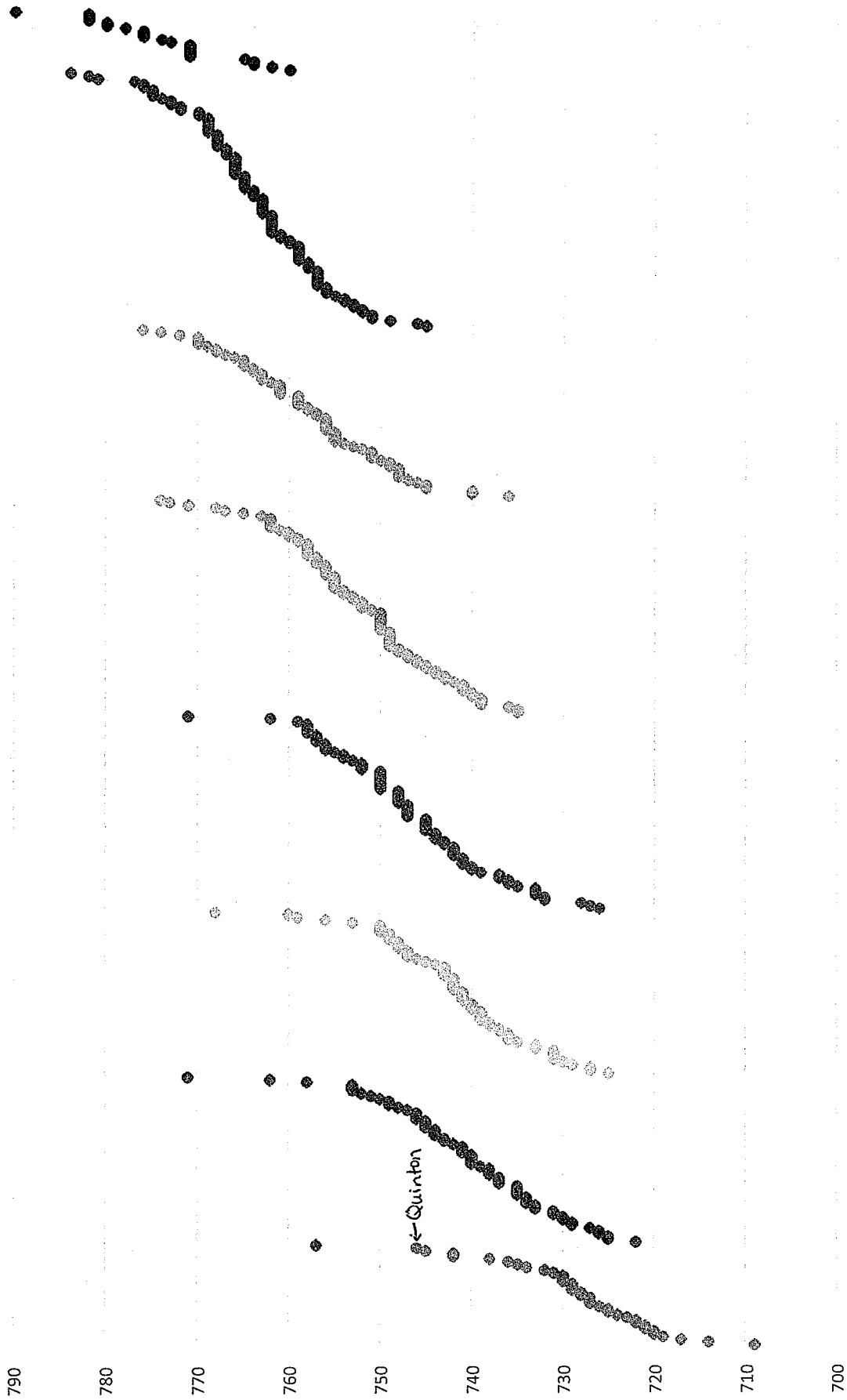
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• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

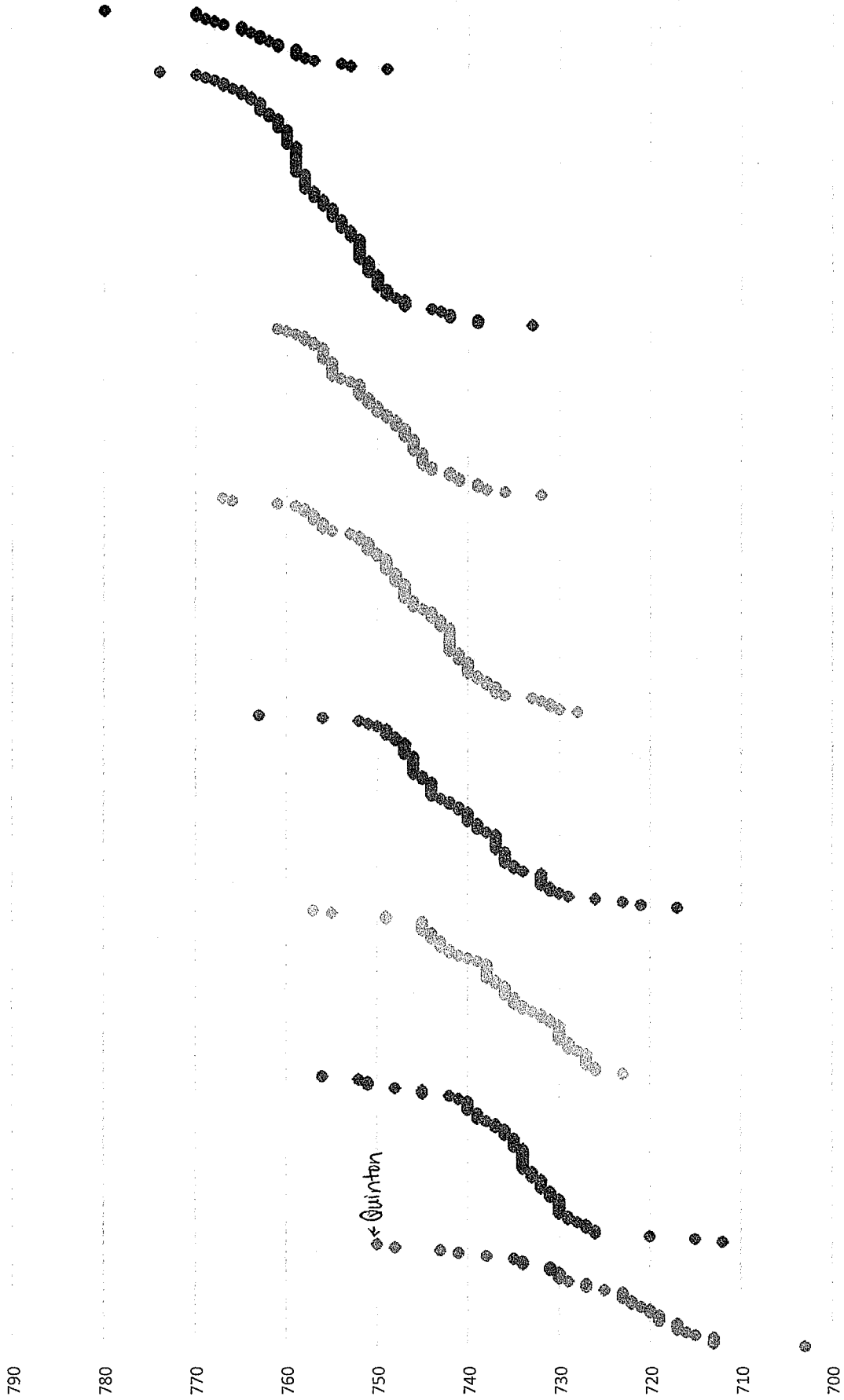
LA - Grade 6



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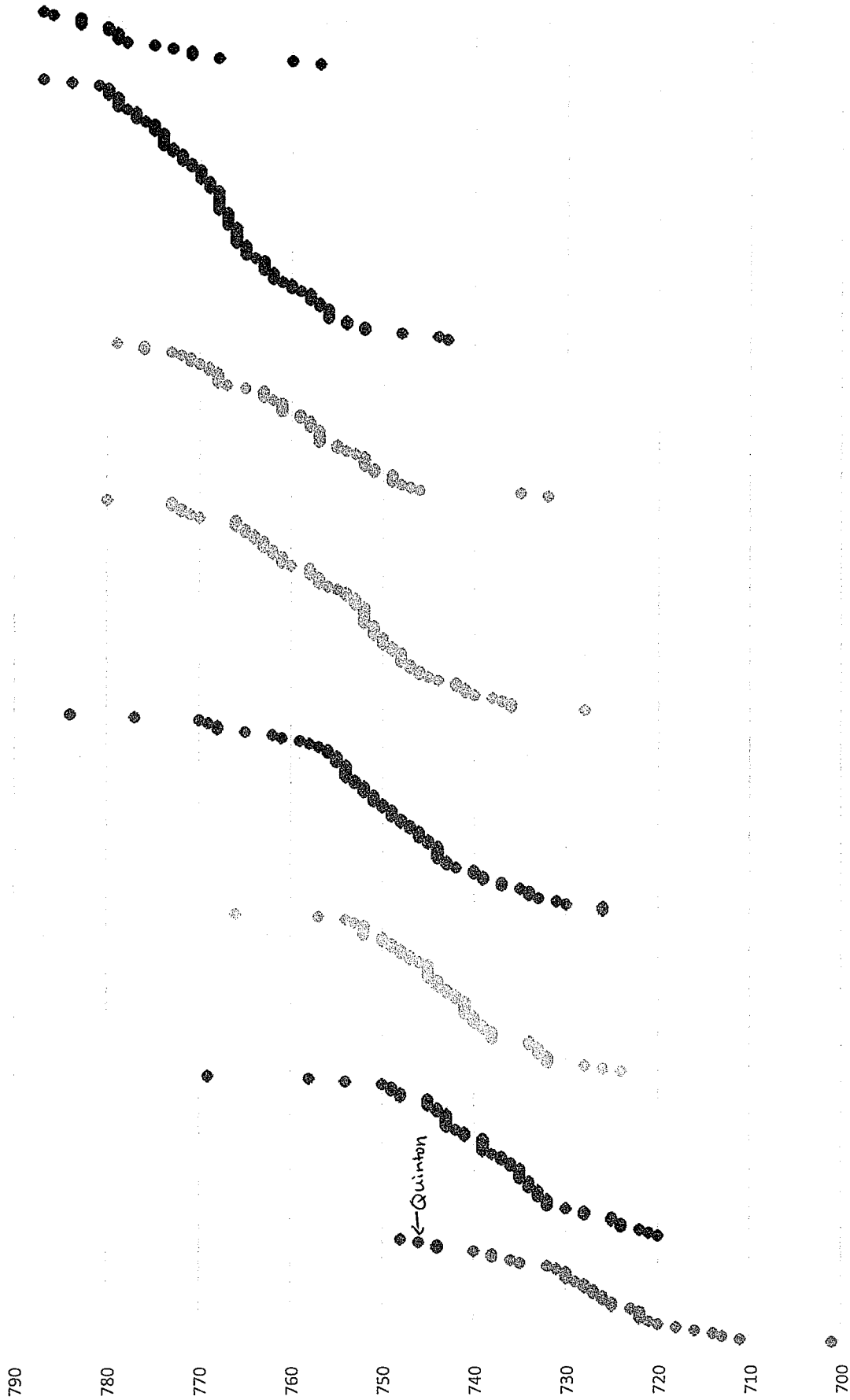
924

Math - Grade 6



• A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J

LA - Grade 7



• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

Math - Grade 7

790

780

770

760

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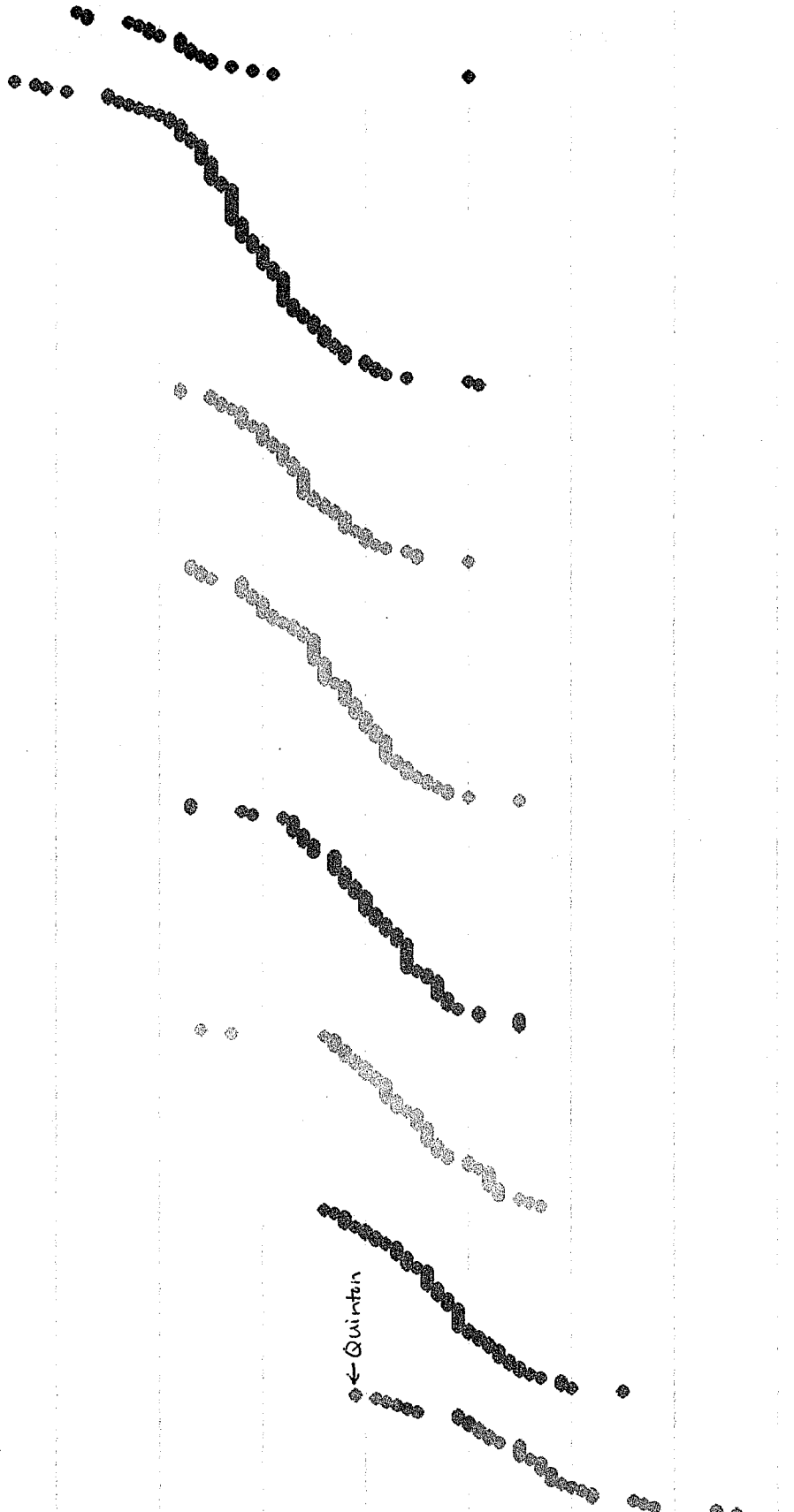
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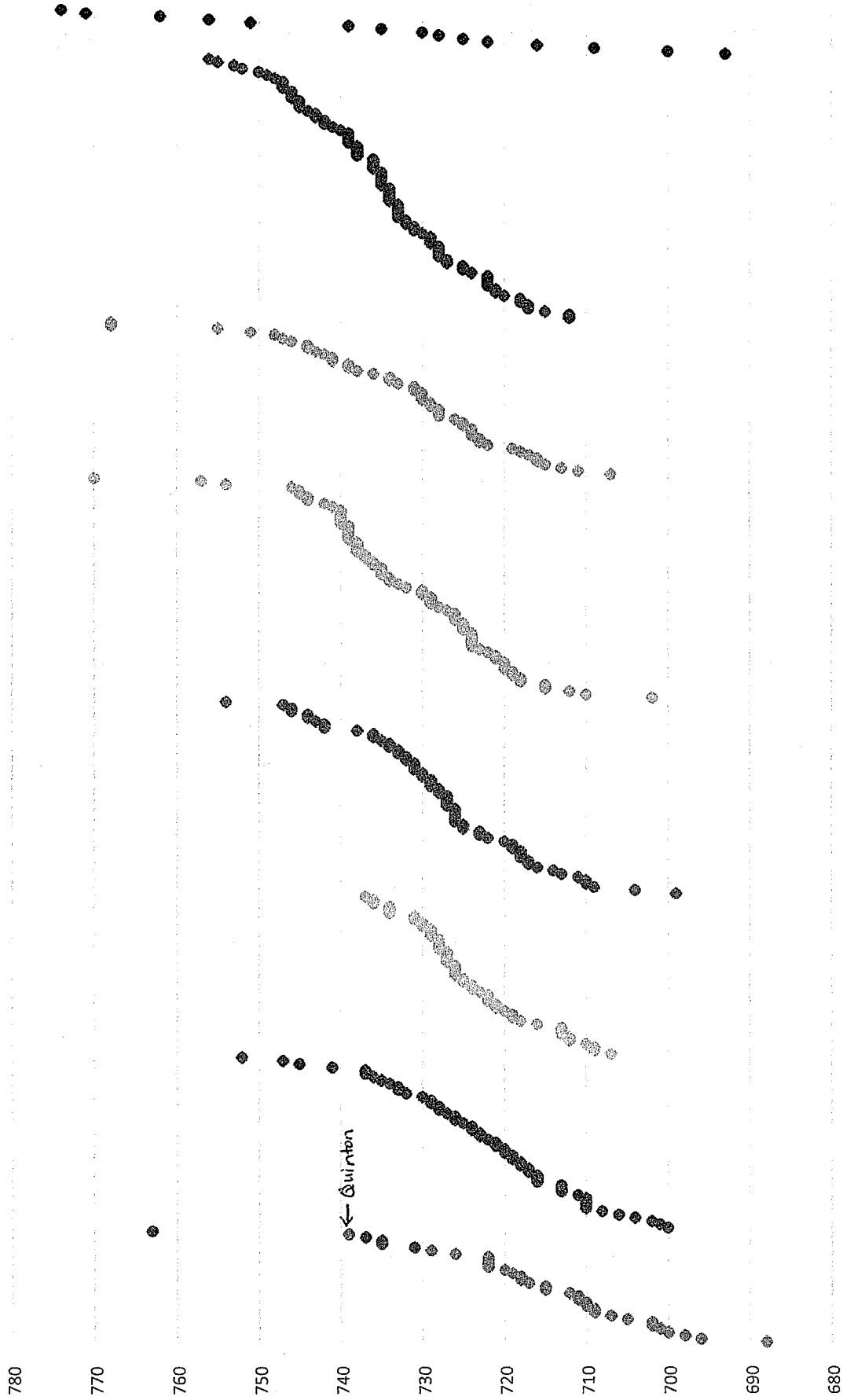
• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

LA - Grade 8



• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

Math - Grade 8



• A • B • CD • DE • FG • GH • I • J

Quinton Township School District 2016-2017 Budget in Review

Total General Fund Budget = \$6,593,903 (\$6.5 Million Budget)

Local Tax Levy = \$2,440,557 (\$2.4 Million)

General Fund Budget Increase -	\$ 413,765	
Special Revenue Fund Budget Decrease -	(\$ 84,381)	
Debt Service Fund Budget Increase -	<u>\$ 2,530</u>	
Grand Total Budget Increase -	\$ 331,914	4.87%

State Aid Fund 10 Increase -	\$ 61,898	
State Aid Fund 20 Decrease -	<u>(\$ 11,330)</u>	
State Aid Increase-	\$ 50,568	

State Aid Fund 40 Increase-	\$ 345	
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Overall increase in Aid from the State	\$ 50,913	
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Cost in Assessment for Debt Service on SDA Funding	\$36,143	stayed the same
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Increase in Ratables - \$174,039 (0.09%)

Budgeted Fund Balance - \$689,104
(\$635,178 required per the audit to relieve taxes)

Surplus is \$225,000

Banked Cap Adjustment applied	\$74,175	
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Majority of Budget Includes:
**Salaries, Tuition, Health Benefits, and
Transportation**

Tax Levy Required (Minimum Tax Levy)	-	\$2,307,609
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Tax Rate	-	\$1.37 per \$100		.034¢	increase
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**Fair Funding Hearing
Kingsway Regional High School
January 27, 2017**

**Luanne J. Hughes
476 Fislerville Road, South Harrison Township, NJ 08062
fchsnutritionchick@gmail.com
609-868-5309**

Good afternoon.

My name is Luanne Hughes. I live in South Harrison Township and I have 3 children in the Kingsway Regional School District.

We've heard and read extensive information about the impact of the current funding situation in my school district – reduced staffing, limited programming, and so forth. I'd like to offer a more personal perspective on how the current state of funding affects my children.

I previously reached out to Senator Sweeney, Assemblyman Taliaferro and Assemblyman Burzichelli to express my support for FAIR FUNDING. Their response indicated that they're investigating alternative formulas... alternatives that will take years to implement. With all due respect, my children don't have that many years to wait for school funding reform. We need to change the situation now. You can get the ball rolling and do the right thing by applying the formula and funding MY school – Kingsway Regional – at its fair level while you investigate alternatives and new formulas.

My youngest son Zachary is a seventh grader. He has dyslexia. Recently, Zachary's neurologist determined that he should receive instruction with the Wilson Reading System® (WRS). WRS is an intensive Tier 3 program for students in grades 2-12 who require multisensory language instruction; or who require more intensive structured literacy instruction due to a language-based learning disability, such as dyslexia. Through this program, my son could MASTER fluent decoding and encoding skills with specialized instruction by specially trained professionals.

Kingsway doesn't currently have anyone on staff who is trained to offer this intensive instruction. An estimated 1 in 5 children is dyslexic. Yet, our teachers don't have the specialized training to support instruction. So I looked for a tutor. The tutor list provided by the Wilson Company includes more than 10 teachers from the Washington Township school system...all trained to use the Wilson Intensive system. When you're well-funded, you're able to train staff on critical instructional techniques and cutting edge strategies – to support ALL of the students at your school. When you're not, you hope parents can find and afford a tutor to give their kids what a school like Kingsway tries desperately to provide but can't. IDEA says my son is entitled to a Free and Appropriate Education. That starts with funding my school so they can train his teachers to provide it.

Due to lack of funds, we are talking about the depletion of crucial programs and a reduction in teachers and trained staff that are necessary for all children to meet academic standards so they can prepare for college or a career. My son doesn't need a study hall. He needs the state to do the right thing....

My children are, in many ways, poster children for public education – excellent students, athletes, musicians, service club members...the total package, as you'd say. Our booster clubs support more and

more of our extracurricular activities because our school doesn't have money. I do worry that our booster clubs can't continue to absorb budget shortfalls and soon won't be able to fundraise enough to give our students the basic gear and equipment they need to participate in activities safely. That's frightening in a district like Kingsway.

More importantly, booster clubs can't raise money to support academics. Kingsway is said to have one of the best-managed budgets in New Jersey with low administrative overheads and low cost-per-pupil expenses. Still...we're talking about cutting programs and dismissing teachers...adding more study halls and filling classes with more students. Our kids don't need more study halls and larger classes. And we shouldn't consider eliminating programming. There is already limited availability in many of our high school courses. In our middle school, it is not uncommon that children can't access after-school "homework club" for academic support. There are too many children trying to sign up, and not enough teachers to accommodate them. In both our high school and our middle school, I am blessed to tell you our teachers care so much that they offer support and assistance to students during lunch since they can't meet the need after school – but how long can you expect people to do this? And, is this an ideal learning environment?

I worry about the future of our elective courses if funding doesn't improve. Let's use band as an example, since my children all take band. Yes, students learn to play an instrument and become more knowledgeable about music, but that's just a small part of what being in band can offer. Studies show that students become more self-assured with band – and I saw this first-hand as I saw my dyslexic son FLOURISH in school (greater self-confidence, more interest in school overall) through participation in band. Band students are problem-solvers. They understand a sense of community and working together, and these are all the skills employers are looking for. They get that sense of being a part of something. Studies show that students who participate in music classes make better grades, score higher on SAT exams and are more likely to stay in school and graduate from high school. They are learning the higher-order thinking; being able to listen to things critically. So many things transfer over to other academics. We don't need more study halls. We need more classes like music...and technology...and foreign language. We don't have enough of these courses now – and they all support math, English, language arts, science – and test scores.

In my position with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, I work with schools throughout Gloucester County. I see the need throughout our county, especially in our poorest districts. I applaud your desire to reform how we fund our schools. And I know that our poorest districts need help. But let's not forget ALL of our districts. ALL of our kids are our future, yet so many of them could be better supported in school. I was one of them. I worked my way through the Lindenwold and Overbrook school systems. I know what it's like to attend school in district that's strapped for cash and short on staff and programming. That's why I worked my way through college...to give my kids what my parents only dreamed of. Now, I find myself asking why that hard work isn't translating into my children's school budget.

I know there is significant need everywhere...and many districts face funding challenges. I realize that I'm standing here asking you to fairly fund Kingsway and there are poor districts like Paulsboro and Glassboro that need money, too. But many of our other districts are being over-funded. Yes, I realize they need the money, too. But let's be fair. Apply the existing funding formula while you investigate options for new approaches. Give growing districts like Kingsway the money we deserve – the money we've paid – the money our kids need. Work with shrinking districts to refine their budgets when their student population decreases. We don't have a booster club to support academics. YOU are our booster club. Allocate our funds fairly...it's the right thing to do.

Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness

Date: Friday, January 27, 2017

Location: Kingsway Regional High School

Time: 11:00 AM

Scott Heino
Superintendent
Chesterfield Township School District
30 Saddle Way
Chesterfield, NJ 08515
(609)298-6900 x1229

Good Morning,

My name is Scott Heino, and I am the Superintendent of Schools for the Chesterfield Township School District. Chesterfield is a Pre-K through 6th grade school district housed in one building.

I want to share one fact with you that I hope you will keep in your mind as I speak today. I represent the Chesterfield Township School District, the most underfunded school district in the State of New Jersey. That's right; we are the most underfunded school district in the entire state. I am pleased to say we have a lot to be proud of in Chesterfield, but being the most underfunded school district in the entire state is not one of them.

In 2008, when the SFRA was enacted, Chesterfield School had an enrollment of 433 students. Our current enrollment is 774 students. Over the past 8 years, we've averaged 43 new students each year. That's significant growth! If you were to stand on the front sidewalk of our school and look to your left, you would clearly see the ongoing construction of a new housing development of over 280 new homes. In other words, our growth is far from over.

In 2008, with an enrollment of 433 students, our state aid was \$362,135. Since then we've grown by 341 students (78% growth). In 2016, our state aid was \$419,983. So even though we have seen tremendous growth and almost doubled in size, our state aid has only increased \$57,848. Considering our per pupil spending of \$16,514,

(\$3,137 less than the state average of \$19,651), the additional aid has not addressed our significant growth.

As I mentioned, last year the Chesterfield Township School District received \$419,983 in state aid. This represents only 11% of the \$3,685,520 aid we should receive through the SFRA. 11%! Under the SFRA, the tax payers of Chesterfield should contribute \$6,492,630 of our \$9,584,936 budget. Due to the unfair funding, our tax payers pay 139% of what they should pay according to the formula. So our tax payers pay \$9,040,635 of our \$9,584,936 budget.

Other than the obvious conclusion that the school district is underfunded through the SFRA, and the taxpayers of Chesterfield are paying well above their fair share, what does this mean? Last month, our auditor addressed the board of education, and he summed it up with this statement, "I have never seen a budget as tight as this one." After almost going into deficit last year, our outlook doesn't look good. I could sit here and list the things we don't have like a chorus program; or talk about the programs we've cut like Rise and Shine, a program designed to provide additional instruction to our students who struggle the most. I could share with you the frustration our tax payers experience each year during budget time, but I won't. I just want to give you a glimpse of our current situation.

Earlier this month, I cut off spending in the district. From now until the end of the year, essential expenses only. We have a geothermal system in the school with an underground "vault" that is a control room for the system. That vault is taking on natural ground water and requires repair. It is costing us over \$6,000 just to determine the problem. We can only imagine what the potential repair will cost. We've had two students move into the district this year with special needs who require out of district placements. One of the tuition costs is \$114,000 a year. This money was not budgeted. For some districts, these situations can be addressed; for Chesterfield, we are scrambling to find the money to address these issues and finish out the school year.

Again, we are growing tremendously. However, last year we did not have the money to add any classroom teachers, and our class sizes are increasing. As we are preparing our 2017/2018 budget, it is actually worse. We are in a position where we may need to cut staff. Again, we are averaging 41 new students each year, and we are cutting staff!

I share these examples with you for one reason - we need your help! I sat in a seat like this last year and testified in front of the Assembly and Senate. I've talked with my local assemblyman, I've attended hearings in Trenton to support school funding fairness, and we've worked to educate our community on school funding. I also belong to a group of other underfunded school districts who are working for a change in school funding. And the one thing that I can tell you with complete frustration, no one is doing anything! I know legislators agree with me on how unfair our current funding is; hopefully, that is the reason you are all sitting here today. However, the fact is that there is over \$600,000,000 in adjustment aid that has continued to be disbursed in the same way for the past 8 years with no adjustment based on the state's economic realities or due to changing demographic circumstances. Thus, I can't trust that anything will change.

The message is clear - no politician is willing to do what is right for school funding fairness. If our legislators were willing, we would have seen at least a change in the adjustment aid.

I sat in a hearing last week in Trenton. I was hopeful for change based on the fact that school funding fairness finally has some momentum behind it. I cannot describe to you how frustrating it was to sit and listen to legislators, as well as some who testified, talk about how, if we reallocate the adjustment aid, there will be winners and losers. And obviously, they don't want losers. You don't have to reallocate the adjustment aid to get losers - here I am, the biggest loser in the state with Chesterfield being funded at 11%! The SFRA is currently being funded at 85%, but Chesterfield only receives 11%!

I don't know how you can sit there and not feel a responsibility to address this issue. That being said, I understand that is why you are here today, and it is very much appreciated. Unfortunately, the Chesterfield Township School District doesn't have the time to continue to discuss this issue. Enough talk, we need action! We may not make it through another year. Understand that the need for reform is now, right now! I know that is not your plan, but I must still make the point that time is not on our side.

I am not an expert on school funding; I started this fight last year and have been working to become more knowledgeable on the topic. However, from listening to others whom I do consider to be experts, the New Jersey SFRA is a model for other states. Three states recently approved similar weighted funding formulas. In my

opinion, we have what we need to fairly fund our schools in New Jersey. The problem is, it is not being used.

Yes, little Chesterfield is just a small part of this state – probably a town many New Jerseyans have never even heard of. We are the little brother in the family, and we need a big brother to look out for us. For whatever reason, we are not being heard, or no one cares to hear. But we are part of this family, and we need to be heard. We need you to make this your priority. The fact that I'm worried about having the money to finish out the fiscal year and neighboring districts are completely satisfied with flat funding is a problem. The tax payers of Chesterfield have given well beyond their fair share.

We all know that the SFRA is currently underfunded by \$1.4 billion dollars. I'm not sitting here before you asking you to increase funding for the SFRA by \$1.4 billion dollars. I am simply asking for our fair share. To hear about districts that are over funded and communities that are not paying their fair share is tough. Fund the formula! If you can't fund the formula, distribute the money fairly. Chesterfield has given all they can give. There is nowhere else we can go. We are counting on you to do what is fair for the children of Chesterfield and throughout the State of New Jersey.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on school funding fairness.



Joseph N. Meloche, Superintendent
Malberg Administration Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace, P.O. Box 5015
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-0391
(856) 429-5600, ext. 4309 Fax (856) 354-1864
Email:JMeloche@chclc.org

**Testimony Before the New Jersey Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness
Kingsway Regional High School, Cafeteria East
Friday, January 27, 2017**

By Joseph Meloche, EdD, Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public School District

Members of the committee, colleagues, and community members, my name is Joseph Meloche, I am the proud superintendent of the Cherry Hill Public School District in Camden County. I am grateful for the opportunity to address the committee and to humanize the impact the current approach to school funding has on the children of the Cherry Hill School District.

Cherry Hill is an incredible community in which to live and to work and especially to raise a family. Cherry Hill is where I grew up, where I attended school, and where my wife and I are raising our four children. The Cherry Hill School District is a wonderfully diverse tapestry of families of so many different backgrounds and means. Among our 11,254 children, 57 languages are spoken at home, more than 2,500 are bilingual, and in our six Title I schools, nearly 1 in 3 children are on Free or Reduced Lunch.

Our community supports education, in fact, our community demands a top quality education for each of our children. I am incredibly proud of our outcomes and our successes and our test scores and the external validation that we received – in fact, we were notified yesterday that the Cherry Hill School District was named a State District of Character!

The Board of Education in Cherry Hill, as a fluid body has maintained focus on student achievement and on fiscal responsibility. We have taken advantage of myriad opportunities to partner with the township on projects and squeeze everything we are able from our resources. But we are at a crossroads – the 81% of our budget that is funded by our community as a result of the disproportionate amount of state aide that we receive is negatively impacting our children. I currently have Advanced Placement classes at the high school level in excess of 40 students. We have eliminated staff, we have eliminated professional development opportunities, we have eliminated extra-curricular opportunities, we have frozen spending, and we have even heralded the nostalgic value of chalk in one of our middle schools instead of installing white boards. We allow students to carry more books because we have lockers that are unusable and must be replaced, just not yet. We have buildings that are tired at best – in fact, I had a legislator suggest creating a crisis in the community by allowing a building to be condemned to shed light on the inadequacy of the current state of funding. We are at a crisis. Today. We bandage and polish and shine and accommodate and explain to our parents that we are focusing on instruction and relationships and outcomes – which are critical and in which we are so successful – and we ask them look beyond the facilities, and the pot holes, the equipment that is not replaced and innovative programs that are not pursued. That while our neighbors have full day kindergarten, or one to one technology initiatives, we do not.

Fair funding? On behalf of the Cherry Hill School District, I want equitable funding. I want funding based on who we are today, in 2017, not who we were in 2005, or 1995, or 1985. I want legislature to uphold the commitment that was established in the adoption of the funding formula



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Email:JMeloche@chclc.org

I am grateful for the opportunity to address the committee. Thank you for your time and your willingness to support children.

106x

**Testimony Before the Senate Select Committee on
School Funding Fairness
Kingsway Regional High School
Woolwich Township, NJ
Friday, January 27, 2017**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the committee. My name is Kathryn Judge from Cherry Hill, the 12th largest school district in NJ, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be here today to shed light on the lack of funding and would like to address this complex subject in the context of my own district's experiences.

We were forced with some very difficult decisions when the Governor confiscated \$3.2 million dollars from our fund balance in 2010 and slashed our budget (we were penalized for being frugal). Today, we do not receive what we received in 2009, even though many other school districts have been brought back to at least the 2009 budget levels.

For the last decade, we have focused our energies on maintaining low class size and instruction of the children of our district. This has concentrated our resources in the classroom, but has also restricted important programs in the district.

We cut spending on Professional Development and reduced stipends in each sport and club, which saved the district almost \$300,000. However, at the middle school level, sports are now restricted to approximately 20 kids per sport. There is no money. Previously, any child could participate.

The average age of our 19 buildings is 50 years old and working space is limited. Our current budget severely restricts maintenance efforts. We would need a multimillion dollar referendum just for black top.

We have no plans for a 1:1 technology initiative in Cherry Hill, to the surprise of our Executive County Superintendent. In fact, we use technology much longer than the expected life of 3-4 years with some of our technology extending beyond 7 years. We don't have the money.

In some of the AP classes at both East and West High School, there are 41 children sitting in the classroom. Our classrooms were not built to hold 41 desks. Some of the children sit on the floor and hope someone is absent so they can have their desk that day.

We do not offer full day kindergarten. We don't have the money for staffing and we don't have the space. If there is a mandate that we must offer full day kindergarten, it will not be in the traditional sense of home elementary schools because, again, we don't have the space. At one time, our District Factor Group was IJ. As of the last time District Factor Groups were analyzed, we are now GH. Even that designation no longer accurately reflects our District.

Of our 19 schools, a third are Title I schools. In those six building, one in three children are eligible for free and reduced lunch (33%)! 81% of Cherry Hill's school budget is from our local tax payers. Just think about that a minute. 81%!

In closing, clearly, Cherry Hill is no longer the 'wealthy' or "affluent" school district it once was and that the local media continues to refer to Cherry Hill as. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak in front of you today. I am happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Kathryn Bay Judge, Cherry Hill School District

BERLIN BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Where Students Discover Their Potential"

Mrs. Kristen Martello, Superintendent

Mr. Frank Domin, Business Administrator

Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness

January 27, 2017

Why are we having this hearing? There is a need for a fair and equitable funding formula, something that Schools and Tax payers can rely on. It's time to step up to the plate and stop relying on creative accounting to get out of the next budget year without thinking of the future. Some of us leave our positions, moving on, getting voted out, but the decisions we make based on the information we have to work with, affects the communities long after we leave.

I can go into what impact the current formula has on my local district but I want to talk in broad terms, simple terms, of what the impact of an equitable funding formula would have. Everyone can tell you what they could buy with more money. Spending money isn't always the answer. Having the time to spend it wisely is. But there are so many road blocks and time constraints that are in place to protect the use of public funds. Even if the economy quickly turned and projected revenues provided an increase in education aid, it would be hard to implement timely. Case in point would be the windfall in aid the Abbott Districts abruptly received. They could not expend it for years. I worked in an Abbott District for six years.

Since the current formula uses actual enrollment in the base calculation to project future funding, districts should be able to make short term budget projections based on their current enrollment patterns. To work with what we have, we need to institute a mechanism to make the formula work as it was intended to, based on actual enrollment without long term Save Harmless money added back into the formula.

Save Harmless Provisions in the formula are good for sudden changes in enrollment patterns that may only be a one year bubble moving through. Save Harmless Provisions give districts time to plan and help eliminate sea-saw effects on school programs, local tax rates, and budgeting for personnel.

BUT there is no current mechanism in the formula to gradually remove the Save Harmless monies. Can we make the existing formula work the way that it was intended too. Take a page out of the Chapter 78 phase in process and build in a phase out of Save Harmless mechanisms. This provides for a equitable distribution of the existing aid and gives school districts planning time to properly budget for program and personnel changes. Of course it will be painful for some of us. I work for two districts, one will be effected adversely.

Is there a need to come up with a new funding formula? That would be the ultimate goal, but in lieu of that, we need to let the existing formula work as it was intended to. Since we are not in a perfect world funding the formula will always be impacted by the amount of State money that is available. We know that, but as long as it is distributed as an equal percentage, local districts could budget accordingly.

Budgeting. A good budget is developed over 3 to 5 years, not to be finalized within 6 - 9 business days of the Governors address. That is why I am here. Your job is not an easy one. But I applaud your willingness to seek information that can assist you is completing the task that you have accepted.

We, the Business Administrators have a monumental task of working with what we are given and guiding the Board and Administration in preparing the annual budget. We are directed to run the schools like a business and create reports and audits according to (GAAP), Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. But the State does not have to follow the same rules!

Formulas are not formulas, there are always adjustments

Fiscal year funding is not fiscal year paid. Basic GAAP accounting calls that Check Kiting.

How do we budget for two State Aid payments that as a prudent accountant we know do not exist?

Debt Service payments. Fixed , or Fiction. When facility improvements are needed, BOE's make promises to the voters on the fixed tax impact to the average homeowner based on State formulas. Decisions are made to take a lesser amount as an immediate grant vs. Debt Service that is unpredictable. Debt Service was always questionable so the Grants were guarantees to the voters. Something that we could budget on. The Bank of the State of New Jersey does not honor their Promises. We have a new deduction to our State Aid and have to budget for the States Debt Service of the Grant that we received.

Thank you for undertaking this task.

Frank Domin, Business Administrator Board Secretary

Berlin Borough BOE and Gibbsboro BOE

Camden County

215 South Franklin Avenue Berlin, NJ 08009 * Phone [\(856\) 767-0129](tel:8567670129) * www.bcsberlin.org

BERLIN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

"Where Students Discover Their Potential"

January 27, 2017
Berlin Borough School District
Camden County
Kristen Martello, Superintendent

RE: School Funding

The disbursement of school funds in New Jersey continues to grow in disproportionate rates every year. All districts want to provide the best possible education to their students. In order to make this happen, districts have had to make cuts or require more of the tax payers in order to provide an education that fosters academic success.

New Jersey continues to implement new initiatives and programs that districts are required, or strongly suggested, to implement without ensuring that all districts have the funds necessary to make it happen. Future Ready is a great example of an initiative New Jersey is currently supporting. The summits and information have been exceptional as they have been sponsored by large companies; however, without the money to fund the technology required to put into each child's hand to be Future Ready, the effort will fail.

Something must be done now to gradually begin the process of moving toward equal funding to all districts. We cannot wait another day never mind another year! I am urging that we develop a gradual process to equal out school funding to all districts starting today.

215 South Franklin Avenue Berlin, NJ 08009 * Phone (856) 767-0129 * www.bcsberlin.org

110x

Egg Harbor Township Schools

Board of Education

13 Swift Drive

Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234

(609) 646-8441 x1001

www.eht.k12.nj.us

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW JERSEY SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FUNDING FAIRNESS

Honorable Steven M. Sweeney - Chair

January 27, 2017

Presented by the Egg Harbor Township School District

Peter E. Castellano, Esq.
Member, Egg Harbor Township Board of Education

Justin A. Riggs
Member, Egg Harbor Township Board of Education

Fredrick P. Nickles
Interim Superintendent, Egg Harbor Township Schools

Chandra D. Anaya, CPA
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

///x

Summary

On behalf of Egg Harbor Township, we would like to bring to your attention our desperate situation with regard to state school funding, and to explain the unique circumstances that Egg Harbor Township has faced, and continues to face, with each passing year that our School District is not adequately funded by the State of New Jersey. The topics we would like to address are: 1) A decade of rapid student population growth, mandated by the State Pinelands Commission, without corresponding state school aid increases, and EDA Assessments, 2) The effects of Atlantic City casino closures and a regional recession, and 3) How our kids are not getting what they need.

Mandated Growth and Flat State Aid

As a school district located in a Pinelands Regional Growth Area, the State of New Jersey has mandated the population growth of our township, which caused our school district to grow, but did not provide us with sufficient funds to educate the students that came to our district as a result of that mandate. At the same time, caps placed on budget and aid growth, coupled with years of flat state aid, simply did not allow us to keep pace with this growth. As a result, the continuing burden on the students and property taxpayers of Egg Harbor Township is particularly onerous.

Between 2000 and 2007, our district grew by 2,008 students, for a 7-year growth rate of 34.7%. During that period our **rate of growth was the highest in the state.** Our enrollment topped out at nearly 8,000 students, and is now approximately 7,500 – back in 2000, our enrollment was 5,791. During all this growth, our increases were capped and did not keep up with this growth. Our budgets have never been able to catch up with this growth.

According to the Department of Labor, over the 5-year period from 2000 to 2004, Egg Harbor Township had 2,976 single-family housing starts – that's the **highest number of any municipality in the state.** During that same period of time, our population grew by approximately 10,000, from 30,000 to 40,000. Residential growth has since slowed due to the economy, but we are still mandated to accommodate 22,000 additional residential units.

Under the current law that provides State Education Aid, the State Department of Education imposes a two-tiered cap on the growth of state aid given to a district over the prior year's state aid. This cap applies regardless

of costs, or the actual growth in student population. The Egg Harbor Township School District has lost over \$200 million since 2008-2009 – when the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) took effect, and another \$43 million under CEIFA dating back to 2000-2001, due to caps, freezes, and cuts in state aid to education.

For the current year, 2016-2017, our district had **\$27 million in aid withheld**. Our formula aid is almost completely flat from last year – again coming in at just under \$40 million, while the formula calls for \$67 million. This difference has to be made up by the property taxpayers.

Our Township residents have been faced with large property tax increases for most of the past decade, with no end in sight – in our FY 16/17 budget – we again had to go to the 2% property tax “CAP” and raise property taxes by 4 cents – yet we are still under-funded and need to make significant cuts. **From 2000 to 2012 our property taxes have doubled, with an 88% increase in the school tax rate.** Note: In 2001, state aid was approximately 60% of our budget – it has since fallen to approximately 35%.

We spend our funds wisely

As demonstrated by the 2016 DOE Taxpayer’s Guide to Education Spending, our total per-pupil budgetary spending is the 38th lowest in the state, at \$14, 283 – with the state average at \$15,296. And, our budget is **\$ 8 million below “Adequacy”** – that’s the amount of money the state says we should spend given the number of students we have.

Some examples – we have two independent foundations searching out alternate funding sources, as well as aggressive solar and energy savings initiatives. Each year, we ask our staff to do more with less across the board, in terms of personnel, equipment and supplies; we are down 100 staff since the 2009-2010 budget. We charge our students to participate in activities (pay to play) and we charge all outside groups to use our facilities.

EDA Assessments

Again this year, the state charged us a \$543,000 EDA Assessment. This arbitrary assessment is unfair, was never part of our bargain with the state, and was never agreed to by the people of Egg Harbor Township when we

chose to use the then Schools Construction Corporation (SCC) to build new schools. To date, this assessment has cost us nearly \$ 3 million.

2010-2011: \$400,347

2011-2012: \$319,537

2012-2013: \$472,583

2013-2014: \$543,131

2014-2015: \$543,131

2015-2016: \$543,131

2016-2017: \$543,131

Total = \$2,821,880

Effects of Atlantic City Casino Closures and Regional Recession

Egg Harbor Township paid a price for the economic boom of the local economy in the early to mid-2000s. However, Egg Harbor Township is now bearing the brunt of a persistent regional recession. Recent casino closures have severely impacted Egg Harbor Township residents. Atlantic County currently has the highest foreclosure rate in the nation, at 3.3 % and an unemployment rate of 7.1 %. Egg Harbor Township currently has 951 properties in some phase of foreclosure.

Egg Harbor Township suffers whether AC does well or does poorly. During boom times – the Pinelands Commission forces us to add residential housing without corresponding local aid. During bad times - people can't afford to pay their skyrocketing property taxes, and homes face foreclosure.

Effects on Education in Egg Harbor Township

With the increase in population described above, the Board and administration did its best to keep costs to a minimum and put resources to the classroom. But as a direct result of inadequate state aid, coupled with the EDA assessment, we have had to cut all middle school athletic and co-curricular programs, middle and high school summer school, bus runs, environmental programs, elementary and middle school gifted and talented, middle school afterschool remediation, grades 1-5 direct foreign language programming and instrumental music, middle school honors math and science, middle school math and reading specialists, and a number of high school clubs. Class sizes continue to grow. We are down approximately

100 staff since 2010, and we have been unable to address adding badly needed full-day kindergarten, and universal pre-K programs. The coming year's budget looks to be disastrous for our township.

Free and Reduced lunch Population and Special Education Costs

The Egg Harbor Township School District has gone from 27% free and reduced lunch to approximately 47% in the last 10 years due to the diminishing economy and demographic changes. Each year the district has had to reduce staffing in general education settings to meet the growing special education population and at-risk needs of our students. The cost for required paraprofessionals, mandated special education teachers to meet compliance, and a large increase in the autistic population has hi-jacked the majority of the budget with no clear end in sight as the community continues to struggle with job loss, foreclosures, mandated affordable housing, and the social challenges that come with those paradigm shifts.

What we need right now:

Fully fund the formula With the imposition of a 2 % property tax cap, our only hope to be able to educate our children is through **ADEQUATE STATE AID**. Funding must be on a per pupil basis, based on actual student counts.

Reform the school budget process The Governor issues state aid amounts in late February, and districts must submit their final budgets in early March. For as long as anyone can remember, those numbers have not been in accordance with the funding formula, which is required by the State Constitution. By the time the legislature passes a budget in July, school budgets are set. The legislature needs to have a say in the process before state aid and school budgets are finalized.



New Jersey School Boards Association

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TESTIMONY ON SCHOOL FUNDING

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JANUARY 17, 2017

The New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) is a federation of the state's local boards of education and includes the majority of its charter schools as associate members. NJSBA provides training, advocacy and support to advance public education and promote the achievement of all students through effective governance. The Association's positions on school funding are derived from policies established by our members, who represent local boards of education throughout the state.

The NJSBA believes that New Jersey's system of financing public schools should enable all local school districts to provide equal opportunity for all children in New Jersey to receive a thorough and efficient education. Such a system must take into account two factors: the educational needs of students, and the ability of a community to financially support its schools.

The NJSBA believes that the state revenue raising system should embody the following characteristics:

- Guarantee sufficient revenue to consistently meet the state's constitutional and statutory funding obligations to the public schools;
- Be balanced with respect to the ability to expand and contract in response to economic conditions (elasticity) and the capacity to produce a stable flow of revenue (stability);
- Be balanced with respect to sources of revenue (individuals, businesses, property, sales, etc.); and
- Be designed to consider both an individual's and a community's ability to pay.

Furthermore, NJSBA believes that the state should fund 50 percent of the statewide total cost of providing a thorough and efficient education for all public elementary and secondary students so that pressures on local property taxes can be relieved. This will invariably require the state to rebalance its current funding sources: the income tax and the local property tax.

The Association supported the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) when it was first enacted in the 2008-2009 school year as a constitutional remedy which met our basic criteria for a statewide funding mechanism to support the state's public school system.

Unfortunately, as a combined result of legislative tinkering and a severe economic downturn, the law was only fully funded in its first year. For the last eight years, the allocation of school aid through SFRA has included a provision stipulating that no district can receive less aid than it received previously, a legislative 'hold harmless' clause, that has constrained promised increases in funding to districts that have experienced increases in enrollment. The "hold harmless" clause, in addition to enrollment caps built into the formula that have been frozen since 2009, has mitigated the positive effect of SFRA for many districts, which would have received significant increases in aid because of enrollment growth since the inception of the SFRA.

Additionally, the SFRA further reduced aid to districts with special education students by wealth-equalization of a portion of this aid, which was previously disbursed on a categorical basis.

Lastly, the impact of the 2 percent tax levy cap, not anticipated by the SFRA, has further constrained local districts' ability to raise local revenue to offset what would have been provided through SFRA had it not been limited by restrictive budget language.

What happens if the state continues to refuse to apply or fund the formula? Local school districts will increasingly find themselves looking for cost-saving reductions that limit extra-curricular activities and perhaps even educational programming options, which they can no longer afford.

Remarks for the New Jersey Assembly School Funding Public Hearing

Bob Dailyda

January 27, 2017

Hello. I am here as a concerned taxpayer and parent in Egg Harbor Township, NJ. I would like to discuss the state of Egg Harbor Township's education funding.

Egg Harbor Township School Funding

Egg Harbor Township (EHT) is a school district located in a Pinelands Regional Growth Area of Atlantic County. As dictated by the Pinelands Commission, we have experienced particularly high growth since 2000 with an average of 500 single family housing starts per year over a decade, the highest in the state.

In 2000 we had roughly 5,800 students and about a decade later we hit 8,000. This was a growth of close to 40%, the highest growth in the state. This kind of growth comes at a significant cost, but we were mandated to grow by the state without adequate compensation in what amounts to an unfunded mandate. We have borne the brunt of the cost by steep increases in our local taxes which [have risen 20% in just the last 6 years alone, and] are becoming unaffordable for many.

In 2001 state aid was approximately 60% of our school budget, this year it is down to roughly 30%. Over the last several years our state aid per year has been over \$10M less than what the funding formula requires. At the same time caps placed on budget and aid growth coupled with 5 years of flat state aid simply did not allow us to keep pace with this growth. We have been behind the curve for a decade and it is only getting worse.

Our funding is even unfair when compared to other districts. As a comparison, we receive only \$5,300 per student in state aid while Pleasantville right down the road gets over \$16,000 per student as an SBA/Abbott District. We rank near the bottom of our peer group of districts (#8 out of 10) in state aid per student (K-12 with over 3,501 students and a CD DFG). From this peer group, why does Pennsauken get \$9,151 per student while we get \$5,300? Why does Winslow get \$8,864 per student while we get 5,300? Belleville and Neptune are a similar story. We're not even close.

Compounding matters, our local economy is in a regional recession due to 5 Atlantic City Casino closures with over 1,100 EHT residents losing their jobs (and that does not include the Taj Mahal impact).

We have a township unemployment rate that peaked [in 2013] at 13.8%; among the worst in the country. More recently it is close to 7%, why, because EHT Labor force is down over 10% [from the peak of in 2012 to now (23,960 in Jul 2012 to 21,518 in Jul 2016 which is 10.2% reduction in workers)]...people are leaving for better pastures.

Making matters worse, is that these people leaving can't sell their homes and their homes are left empty in foreclosure. There are currently 956 properties in some stage of foreclosure in EHT [according to RealtyTrac]. With still 7% unemployment plus many others now underemployed; financial stress is rampant. One measure is almost 48% of EHT students now qualify for free or reduced price lunch, up from 27% just a decade ago.

We are experiencing a perfect storm of high growth that we could not keep up with, less than expected state aid, and a devastating blow to our local economy. Our residents are hurting and this hurt has been

Bob Dailyda
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forced upon us by the state by the unfunded growth mandate and severe underfunding. We are only asking for our fair share of funding to make it right for the people of our district.

Additional Unfair Tax Burden

Adding even more to the burden is an unfair EDA assessment that we have been charged by the state over the last five years. EHT had to build schools and additions due to the mandated rapid student population growth and received an EDA grant with the understanding that, as a grant, it did not require any residual payback to the state. This year's EDA assessment of \$543K alone accounts for a 1.3 cent tax to our already overtaxed residents. This is an arbitrary assessment that was never disclosed by the State and never approved by the Egg Harbor Township voters.

Assemblyman Mazzeo introduced a budget resolution to address this last year, but the cut was vetoed out of the budget. **We ask that you please do everything in your power to help end this assessment.**

Thank You!
Bob & Shae Dailyda
55 Marshall Drive
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Point Summary:

- Egg Harbor Township experiencing a perfect storm of mandated high growth that we could not keep up with, less than expected state aid, followed by a devastating blow to our local economy. State aid to Egg Harbor Township is well below the funding formula and that of its peers; we deserve our fair share of state aid.
- The state's EDA assessment of \$543K to Egg Harbor Township is an arbitrary assessment that was never disclosed by the State and never approved by the Egg Harbor Township voters. It needs to be repealed.

Testimony before the Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness

Kingsway Regional High School, Woolwich Township: January 27, 2017

Good afternoon. My name is Robert Goldschmidt, and I currently serve as the interim superintendent in Woodbury City. I serve in the role formerly held by Mr. Joseph Jones, whom I know many of you have heard from, as Joe was the single most tireless and articulate advocate for full funding I know.

School funding and New Jersey- for too long now, for decades, the issues of how to fund and how to distribute funding for our schools has been the “third rail” of state issues- everyone sees it, everyone knows it needs to be there, but no one dare touch it, at least not effectively, because it has required a unique brand of courage and leadership.

In the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 many of us thought we had heard an answer. Proportional funding which would take into account the dizzying combination vexing our schools and educators: children in poverty who require additional and intense services; children with special needs who need and deserve every bit of help we can give and who as we now know, are best educated as close as possible to their homes and home schools; an avalanche of new federal and state mandates, every one of which requires either additional dollars or additional staff to meet; and the issue of local taxes, and how to meet the needs above efficiently and at a reasonable burden to taxpayers.

The failure during the last eight years to fully fund this formula, and to allow it to exercise the periodic adjustments it needed, has in many cases compromised the avowed mission of our schools. I am here to testify not only as a citizen and taxpayer, but as an administrator who has worked now in two districts of great need who have consistently been shortchanged in meeting the needs of their children: Woodbury City and Riverside. In each city, aside from high poverty rates and severe economic instability, committed families and educators remain handicapped in their efforts to assist their children in getting a truly equal chance to succeed. In fact, students in these two communities quite often succeed not

because of state funding, but in spite of its limitations. This is absolutely contrary to the reasonable, and truly fair, intent of the SFRA.

In many of these communities, a large number of children can be the first in their families to graduate from college, but if financial and academic issues prevent that, then New Jersey faces a dire kind of future no one will discuss. Recent distortions of the concept of "fair" are almost Orwellian in their intent, and we can ill afford to fall victim to them in the state or in our nation. Complex problems can rarely be solved by simple answers or clever mottos.

In communities like Woodbury, and some who are not, by the formula local citizens pay an unfair share of the objective "cost of an adequate education." Fully funding the SFRA can, if not reduce all property taxes; at least distribute them properly across the state based on the needs of its children and communities. Public education, we can never forget, is a state right and a state responsibility. It developed in this country to prepare a qualified citizenry and a productive workforce, factors which could unify and strengthen us. We can no longer afford to be 580 isolated systems pitted against each other based on wealth, property values, race or zip codes. But the first step in true recovery will be a fair, deliberate and predictable adjustment of state aid based on the formula already in place, to fully fund it and plan to do so and then actually carry out that plan.

Woodbury has been designated as a DFG "B" district, meaning simply that, after the 31 former Abbott districts, it is in the next tier of districts with high poverty, poor tax valuation of property, and other factors which hold down the ability of the local community to fund real educational need. Since the state demands a system of thorough and efficient education, it is only the state which can correct this inequity.

By the SFRA formula. Woodbury City is shortchanged by the State of New Jersey an incredible \$4 million dollars in aid, receiving only 75% of what it needs and should get. Knowing both the community and its schools, there is an amazing commitment by its citizens, families and teachers to do everything for its students. The schools have been honored for their efforts at creating more

opportunity for its historically underserved populations. There has been no “lavish spending,” no “pie in the sky” dream projects to whittle away scarce resources. In fact, there is a constant struggle to provide the fully rounded educational experience that many other districts take for granted. This is not due to any lack of character, determination or ability on the part of Woodbury itself; in fact it is a frugal district. The SFRA formula might not be perfect, but we won’t know that until it is fully funded and implemented, which has never taken place.

This is not just a Woodbury problem- across the state such “B” districts have only percentages of the aid they should receive:

Burlington County- Riverside is short \$5.5 million, getting 66% of what it should.

Hudson County- Kearney is short over \$34, getting 47% of what it should.

Bergen County- Lodi is short almost \$20 million, receiving 42% of its aid.

Camden County- Runnemede is \$2.5 million short, receiving 66% of its aid.

Cumberland County- Cumberland Regional is \$3 million short, receiving 80%.

I am very familiar with two of these districts, but there are 42 such school districts in the state, and these are just from the “2nd poorest” state DFG classification. I am sure there are dozens and dozens more.

I applaud the courage inherent in SR-100, and all of you for your willingness to serve on this committee. I join the voices of all of my fellow parents, taxpayers and citizens, and the community which I proudly serve, to ask you to make the adjustments necessary to better level the playing and learning field for our children. They are all New Jersey children; they deserve the constitutional right guaranteed to them here; and as change races forward, we and they cannot afford more delay. Thank you.

Robert H. Goldschmidt, Interim Superintendent
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PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

TONY TRONGONE
Superintendent

January 27, 2017

To: Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the allocation of State school aid and its impact on educational quality.

Pemberton Township Schools serves over 5000 students, of which 1,073 are connected to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Pemberton Township Schools offers academic and extra-curricular programs commensurate to other school districts, but some important factors separate us from similar districts serving low income and poverty-level families.

The first is our unique relationship with nearly 800 military families. JB MDL is recognized as an Extraordinary Family Member Program (EFMP) Base, meaning military officials have determined that families with special needs can be adequately served if they are assigned to this base, and officials take that into consideration during their assignment coordination. Well-renowned for our outstanding special education services, Pemberton provides military families with special needs children with a wide range of services from in-class resource support to out-of-district placements with acute support services. Many of these services are provided over and above the level of compensation provided by federal Impact Aid.

The second important consideration affects Pemberton's ability to pay from local fair share. New building and land development is prohibited in 95% of Pemberton Township, due to regulations set forth by the Pinelands National Preserve, protected wetlands regulations, farmland preservations and county occupied land. **This severely limits our ability to increase our tax base.**

A final point that differentiates Pemberton from many urban schools is the geography and expanse of our location. Pemberton Township is 62.5 square miles, with a population of just a little over 27,000. The additional 24 square miles of JB MDL make traversing the county and busing students a challenging and time consuming endeavor. A student's travel time may be over 45 minutes each way, as our 10 schools are located in clusters sharing one campus. This arrangement of 2 to 3 schools directly adjacent to each other requires additional teachers and administrative support, but because of the strict building constraints detailed above, is unable to be modified.

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Pemberton Learning Community: Pursuing Excellence One Child at a Time

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As defined in the preceding paragraphs, Pemberton faces unique and challenging circumstances and will be unable to close a \$52 million funding gap as proposed by Governor Christie. Long recognized as a fiscally prudent school district by both independent auditors and state organizations (such as the SDA), Pemberton has been continually working on reducing our reliance on adjustment aid and plans to reduce our expenses incrementally over 5 years. The district will also begin working with the Pemberton Township municipality in analyzing the fiscal impact the increase in local share above the 2% cap will have on its citizens. (If this becomes allowable by law.)

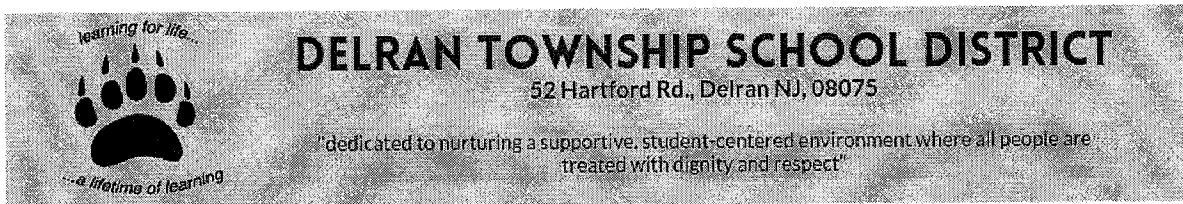
My extensive background in curriculum and instruction has shown me that in order to see positive results of a curriculum initiative, we *must* adhere to the fidelity of implementation that the research behind the curriculum tells us we must follow. When we change the guidelines and go off course with implementation, we will not see—nor should we expect to see—the promised results. I believe that same principle can be applied to the State school funding formula as well. After it was implemented in its first year, the fidelity of implementation was not maintained, resulting in the current situation at hand.

We are requesting the governor to follow the State school funding formula as it was intended to be implemented in 2009.

Thank you for your consideration.



Tony Trongone
Superintendent of Schools



Senator Sweeney, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to share the my thoughts regarding school funding. My name is Dr. Brian Brotschul and I am the Superintendent of Schools in Delran Township.

The Delran Township Board of Education believes that resolving the chronic underfunding of education is the highest of its priorities and has said so via formal resolution. The annual shortfall of operating funds impacts everything we do. If the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 were fully implemented in Delran Township, uncapped and as originally intended, we would have had \$93,762,560 more dollars in aid. What does this mean?

This means that in I cut millions of dollars of justifiable expenses from our annual budget. This means that as a bevy of unfunded mandates continue to bombard school administrators, I find either the money to fund them or the human capital to oversee them. This means that as we are charged with creating learning environments and programs for students that prepare them for careers that don't even exist, I can barely staff schools with required staff members. This means that as the districts around me flourish with the added bonus of adjustment aid that was only intended to last one year to soften the blow to a fully implemented SFRA, Delran struggles to provide services to specialized populations, not the least of which is a burgeoning English language learner group new to the country. This means that as we outgrow our spaces in two of our four schools that I can't in good consciousness recommend to the Board to ask the taxpayers for an additional cent through a referendum. This means, overall, that we are strapped by a funding plan that does not allow us to be great at what we do and barely allows us to be good.

This means that improving student achievement – the very reason teachers and administrators are hired and the measuring stick for all Board of Education members statewide is increasingly more difficult to sustain. This means that there over one third of districts receive more than what the formula calls for and two thirds receive significantly less. This means that the two thirds of districts have to tax above their local communities' fair share. This means that the goal when you all set out to implement the SFRA has never been attained.

Who is responsible for this? Well, I know it is not our local Delran taxpayers. They are already being taxed above their fair share. We have taken every tax dollar as allowable by law since 2011. There is no more banked cap to apply. There is no new healthcare contribution income coming from the very employees that suffer on the other end from larger class sizes and shrinking supply budgets.

SFRA was realistic and anticipated that there might come a point where full funding might not be possible. In the law, I ask that you reference specifically [NJSA 18A:7F-52](#), it contains a provision to proportionally divide available equalization aid between the districts if full funding is not possible.

It is my hope that this body will take the necessary steps to resolve this disparity. Our students are depending on it.

