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ICYMI: "Christie's proposal will treat every student equally and every taxpayer fairly"

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Tags: [Education](#)

More school money isn't helping students

Assemblyman Dave Rible

Asbury Park Press

Albert Einstein's definition of insanity as "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results" aptly applies to our state's current school funding formula.

Between 1985 and the upcoming school year, state taxpayers will have sent \$97 billion to the 31 former Abbott school districts, compared to \$88 billion to the remaining 546 districts for PreK-12 education. Simply put, 5 percent of the state's school districts receive 52 percent of total state education dollars.

...

For the past 30 years, the state Supreme Court has forced taxpayers to subsidize urban education at the expense of suburban taxpayers, forcing property tax rates to explode in non-Abbott communities. Many times these property taxes have been raised on retirees, taxing away their savings and the value of their homes.

Most of us agree the current aid formula needs to be reformed. Under Gov. Chris Christie's Fairness Formula, districts will receive \$6,599 per pupil with additional funding for special needs students. It restores equity to a well-intentioned, but terribly misguided attempt to provide quality education to all of our students while cutting property taxes for 75 percent of residents.

...

Christie's proposal will treat every student equally and every taxpayer fairly. Per-student funding of \$6,599 will boost money to schools in our area, while property taxes will drop on average by more than \$2,000. The total amount of aid and the quality of education doesn't change, only the distribution of the funding. If failing school districts can't attain success with millions in overall funding from the state, increasing that money won't help students as much as it hurts taxpayers.

Education is one of the most important things a parent can provide for their children. The fairness formula treats every student with equal care and provides real property tax relief. It's time the state stops wasting taxpayer dollars to fund failure and fix a problem that is all too obvious.

When schools aren't funded on a per pupil basis, \$5.1 billion goes to 31 districts while \$4 billion goes to 546 districts. The fairness formula will equitably spend \$9.1 billion across all 577 districts, without any property tax discrimination in districts that don't receive a return on their money. My colleagues and I agree that any legislator representing these counties who does not support this fair and balanced approach is failing to represent their own constituents.

Full article [HERE](#).

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