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Governor Christie “has the best interests of the taxpayers of New Jersey at heart, while focusing on the importance of quality education”

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What They're Saying:

Senator Mike Doherty: “New Jersey has the highest property taxes in the nation because our overly complex school funding formula tries to pick favorites, giving some districts hundreds of millions and others next to nothing. You can’t fix that inequity by punting the problem to a commission of bureaucrats who will produce another bad formula. The fair, simple and transparent solution is to treat all kids equally. Even though Senate Democrats are hiding behind a commission to recommend a new school funding proposal, what they have already promised amounts to nearly \$2 billion in new spending – and they haven’t said one word about how they’d pay for it.” (Release, 7/25/16)

Manchester Mayor Kenneth Palmer: “Governor Christie’s Fairness Formula is a spot-on and needed remedy for towns like Manchester, which have been historically under-funded. I truly appreciate Governor Christie tackling such a colossal issue!” (Statement, 7/7/16)

Manchester Township Council President James A. Vaccaro Sr.: “The new funding formula would provide substantial tax relief to Manchester’s residents, including our senior citizens who survive on fixed incomes. A lower tax rate would also attract new homeowners, businesses and developers to our town, improving the economic environment for everyone.” (Karen Wall, “Manchester Officials Back Christie’s School Funding Fairness Formula,” Patch, 7/17/16)

East Rutherford Mayor James Cassella: “East Rutherford recently passed a resolution in support of Governor Christie’s Fairness Formula with bi-partisan support. In my thirty-plus years of being an elected official, this plan is the most practical solution to the broken school funding system I have seen yet.” (Statement, 7/22/16)

Seaside Park Borough Administrator Bob Martucci: “It should be fair. If you’re a proportional share of your student body, then that’s what you should be paying right across the line from any kind of bonding right through the cost of operating a school system. The residents and the homeowners would not have to pay that huge of a tax levy which would mean they could put it towards other things such as renovating houses, putting money into the town...your value of your houses even increase because tax levies are lower. It only benefits the town.” (Vin Ebenau, “Some shore towns welcome proposed school fairness formula,” 92.7 WOBN, 7/18/16)

East Greenwich Mayor Dale Archer: “We were truly excited that Governor Christie exhibited the type of courage and forward thinking necessary to change the system in a fundamental way with his ‘Fairness Formula’. Members of my

Township Committee felt strongly enough that we passed a Resolution of support of Governor Christie's plan." (Erin Serpico, "Like many, Gloucester County school district longs for more funding," *Inquirer*, 7/15/16)

Egg Harbor Township Mayor & Former Senator Sonny McCullough: "As a result of the broken promises under our current state school funding formula, 65% of Egg Harbor Township's property taxes go to operate our local school district. I believe our students and hardworking EHT families deserve the additional aid and immediate property tax relief they would receive if Governor Christie's Fairness Formula proposal is moved forward." (Statement, 7/19/16)

Haddonfield Mayor Jeff Kasko: "All children, no matter where they live in New Jersey, deserve to be fully supported by state tax dollars that fund public education. By sending most of our tax dollars to just a few districts and letting others rely on local property taxes to fund their public schools, we have created an unaffordable, divided state with too many towns now out of reach for average, middle-class New Jerseyans due to sky-high property taxes. I applaud Governor Christie for proposing a way to end this funding disparity and help level the playing field for taxpayers in towns across New Jersey." (Statement, 7/7/16)

Audubon Park Mayor Lawrence Pennock: "I strongly stand behind the Governor's plan for school funding. This plan puts every child in the state on the same page. I realize this will cause problems for some districts, but bold decisions like this will continue to be needed to put our state back on the solid financial footing we need to be successful. I would hope that the political leaders in the State of New Jersey would take immediate action on this plan. I am confident that we will put both the interests of the State and the School Districts ahead of what always seems to be political games." (Statement, 7/17/16)

Far Hills Mayor Dr. Paul Vallone: "Once again, Governor Christie has the best interests of the taxpayers of New Jersey at heart, while focusing on the importance of quality education. As many school systems know, it is not how much you spend on education, it's how you encourage each student, each teacher, each school system to be the very best while making New Jersey tax-affordable for our residents and our businesses. Reducing our property tax bill by over \$1,500 per household is something all New Jersey residents can support, and certainly something Far Hills residents can support." (Statement, 7/18/16)

Monroe Mayor Daniel Teefy: "While my confidence in our school district leaders remains high, our township cannot escape the inequitable distribution of school funding at the state level. Your proposed changes to the school funding formula would provide the average Monroe taxpayer a 5% reduction or \$352.00 savings to their tax bill. This would be a start in offering suburban communities tax relief. New Jersey residents can no longer accept or afford having the highest property taxes in the nation." (Letter, 7/20/16)

Franklin Township Mayor Susan Soloway: "Governor Christie's proposal is the only fair and equitable way to fund each student in New Jersey. Why should we morally fund one student more than another? Franklin Township would receive an over 347% increase in aid. That amounts to property tax relief of just under \$2,000 for our residents." (Statement, 7/18/16)

Bay Head Mayor Bill Curtis: "I am in favor of the Governor's plan. It assists all children while helping our taxpayers of Bay Head, many of whom are seniors with no children or even grandchildren in public schools. This effort is long overdue to help school children in all districts and a good start towards lowering property taxes." (Statement, 7/7/16)

West Milford Township Mayor Bettina Bieri: "As you can see, according to the governor's website, this funding formula for schools would bring fairness to school funding because funding for every child would be identical, regardless of location or district. Furthermore, this equalization formula could bring tax relief of \$720 annually for the average household in West Milford. Therefore, it is imperative that the governing body take any necessary action to support this Fairness Formula pending further investigation/confirmation of the facts." (Erika Norton, "Township likes 'Fairness Formula,'" *The West Milford Messenger*, 7/14/16)

Sparta Township Mayor Christine Quinn: "It is encouraging to see that the formula is under review. Looking at re-distribution of funding across the student population rather than the student location will ensure that each district and more importantly each student receives their fair share. The impact of legislation such as this offers tremendous opportunity for municipalities such as Sparta." (Erika Norton, "Township likes 'Fairness Formula,'" *The West Milford Messenger*, 7/14/16)

Port Republic Mayor Gary Giberson: "As a former President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors, I have seen firsthand how the unfair allocation of state education aid drives local property taxes particularly in rural and suburban communities throughout our state. Governor Christie's Fairness Formula is the first serious attempt in my lifetime to challenge the status quo and end the flawed system which continues to reward failure and punishes success." (Statement, 7/25/16)

Cape May Freeholder and Sea Isle City Mayor Len Desiderio: "I commend Governor Christie's efforts to deliver immediate property tax relief for middle class families throughout Cape May County. The Fairness Formula is the only viable solution to fixing a broken school funding system which for far too long has failed students and taxpayers alike." (Statement, 7/25/16)

Caldwell Borough Mayor Ann Dassing: "When I heard that the Fair Funding Plan would mean an 802-percent increase in state aid for our district and an approximate tax savings of about \$2000 per property, you can be sure that I was and am a solid supporter of this idea. I know that in all things the pendulum typically settles some were in the middle so even if we were to ultimately gain half, or 401 percent, that would be a great start to achieving meaningful tax reform and relief." (Danielle Santola, "Gov. Christie's School Funding Plan Could Significantly Reduce Property Taxes in West Essex Region," *TAP into West Essex*, 7/26/16)

West Caldwell Mayor Joseph Tempesta: "In Caldwell and West Caldwell, the local taxpayer pays about 93 percent and gets about 8 percent in state aid. I kind of agree with [Christie]—I think the New Jersey State Supreme Court really has to look at this whole Abbott-district funding because I think it was done a number of years ago and I think it was done unfairly." (Danielle Santola, "Gov. Christie's School Funding Plan Could Significantly Reduce Property Taxes in West Essex Region," TAP into West Essex, 7/26/16)

Press Contact:

Brian Murray
609-777-2600



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Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000