



Governor Christie's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Makes Education a Key Priority

Governor Christie's Increased Funding for Education & Bold Reform Agenda Delivers the Promise of a Quality Education for Every Child

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE'S ALLOCATION OF \$8.9 BILLION IN EDUCATION AID IN HIS FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET IS THE LARGEST APPROPRIATION IN NEW JERSEY HISTORY

One Billion Dollars in Education Funding Increases Over Two Years

Governor Christie's fiscal year 2013 budget represents a commitment to provide both the resources and reforms to deliver opportunity to every New Jersey child with \$213 million in increased education aid and a bold reform agenda for education in New Jersey.

- In fiscal year 2012, Governor Christie increased education spending by \$855 million;
- Governor Christie increases his commitment to New Jersey schools and students by providing an additional \$213 million; and
- Under Governor Christie, State aid to education will have been increased by more than \$1 billion since fiscal year 2011, with State education aid totaling \$8.9 billion in the fiscal year 2013 budget.

Governor Christie is proposing state funding for education at the highest level in New Jersey history – more than any previous administration ever.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE'S REFORM LEGISLATION WILL FIX NEW JERSEY'S BROKEN EDUCATION SYSTEM BY PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST

Working with the Legislature on a bipartisan basis, Governor Christie has put forward a package of bills that will address the biggest challenges facing public education in New Jersey and put children before special interests. Throughout the course of the last year, these proposals have been debated, discussed and deliberated. Now, in 2012, it is time to act to match New Jersey's strong financial commitment to schools with real, meaningful reforms that seek to ensure every child in New Jersey is given the opportunity to succeed regardless of zip code.

- **School Children First Act (S-807/A-981):** The bill would create a statewide educator evaluation system consistent with the goals of the Obama Administration, ties tenure to effectiveness, ends forced placements and Last-In-First-Out (LIFO) personnel policies by using both seniority and educator effectiveness in staffing decisions, and reforms compensation systems. These changes will allow New Jersey to identify and reward the most effective teachers in a meaningful and fair way, while also better supporting those comparatively few teachers who are not effective.
- **Charter Reform Bill (A-980):** The bill provides critical updates to strengthen and improve New Jersey's charter law. The bill increases the number of charter school authorizers, permits public schools to be converted to charter schools by local boards of education as well as the Department of Education Commissioner, and increases charter autonomy while making them more accountable.

- **Opportunity Scholarship Act (S-1779):** The bill would provide tax credits to entities contributing to scholarships for low-income students, broadening choice and educational options for children in some of New Jersey's worst performing schools.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE IS INCREASING AID TO PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES BY \$108 MILLION

Governor Christie pledged to increase State support for New Jersey's colleges and universities once the State's fiscal problems were addressed and the economy began growing again. Governor Christie's fiscal year 2013 budget follows through on that commitment by providing \$108 million in increased State support for institutions of higher education and student assistance.

- **Governor Christie's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Increases Resources For Higher Education Institutions And Students By Approximately \$108 Million.**
 - Under the Governor's proposal, total State support will increase from \$1.97 billion to \$2.08 billion.
- **\$80.1 Million Of The Additional Funding Goes Directly To The Twelve State Colleges And Research Institutions.**
 - Total State support for State colleges and research institutions increases by 6% to over \$1.4 billion, supporting day-to-day operations and to pay for the cost of employee fringe benefits.
- **State Funding For County Colleges Increases By \$6.6 Million.**
 - The Governor's budget provides \$175.4 million in aid to county colleges, a \$1.4 million increase.
 - A total of \$37.4 million, a \$5.2 million increase in funding, is provided to support county colleges for debt-associated costs, known as Chapter 12 financing.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE'S BUDGET INCLUDES \$1 MILLION FOR THE GOVERNOR'S URBAN SCHOLARSHIP TO HELP EVERY NEW JERSEY CHILD REACH THEIR POTENTIAL

Governor Christie is acting on his commitment to provide college access for high-achieving students from economically disadvantaged areas through the creation of the Governor's Urban Scholarship Program. This new initiative, funding with an initial \$1 million appropriation in the fiscal year 2013 budget, will provide students in New Jersey's urban communities the opportunity they need to succeed.

- **The Scholarship Will Be Known As The Governor's Urban Scholarship And Is Funded In The Fiscal Year 2013 Budget At \$1 Million.**
- Keeping true to the Governor's commitment that no child's educational destiny should be predetermined by zip code, this scholarship will specifically target children in New Jersey's urban communities. Aid will be available to those in eligible areas who are in the top 5% of their high school class and who choose to attend a New Jersey institution of higher education.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE IS INCREASING STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AN ALL-TIME HIGH

Governor Christie's budget increases financial support for New Jersey students attending in-state institutions to an all-time high. More than \$393.2 million is recommended for the various programs that make up the State's student financial assistance package.

- **Governor Christie Increasing Assistance For The Neediest Students By \$37.5 Million Through Tuition Aid Grants (TAG).**
 - \$341.4 million in State funding is provided in total for Tuition Aid Grants, which will allow the average award in each sector to increase.

- **Governor Christie Is Increasing Funding For The New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) For The First Time In Four Years.**
 - More than \$38.8 million is provided for annual EOF grants ranging from \$200 to \$2,500 to the economically and educationally disadvantaged students who need it most.
 - EOF grants assist low-income residents who are capable and motivated but lack adequate preparation for college study.