



## NORTH WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Assemblyman Erik Peterson  
23 Royal Road  
Suite 201  
Flemington, N.J. 08822

Dear Assemblyman Peterson:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I sent to Governor Christie. In the letter, I describe the possible catastrophic consequences that may befall the students of my District if some of the possible budget funding scenarios in New Jersey become a reality.

I particularly wish to draw your attention to the shift from regular State Aid (Equalization Aid) to newly created Funds 16 and 17 in the budget. I refer to what I believe is a violation of the "supplement, not supplant" doctrine most always attached to Federal and State grants in aid. It certainly appears as if the Corzine administration used some of the ARRA Stimulus Funds to fill a gap in the State Budget by creating these new funds, and directing school districts to transfer their Equalization Aid to them. This will allow the State to claim that these funds are now Federal ARRA dollars and when they are no longer available my District will lose \$760,671 in what was State Aid granted because we were deemed to have spent "under adequacy". This seems to be a shell game that will further transfer the cost of public education from State sources directly onto the backs of our taxpayers. Couple this with a further possible reduction in State Aid, and my small District could see a \$1.96 million reduction on previously realized revenue sources. In a \$17.2 million budget, this will have disastrous consequences for our children.

We pride ourselves on being a District that provides a quality education at a frugal cost to our taxpayers. The N.J. Comparative Spending Guide of the 47 Regional School Districts demonstrates that we are good stewards of the community's trust. I ask that you bring whatever pressure you may be able to exert in order to prevent this educational calamity from becoming real.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Fogelson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent