

**Dear Community Member,**

**We encourage our community to contact Governor Murphy and ask him to support the immediate design and implementation of a New School Funding Formula to more equitably distribute State School Aid to ALL School Districts, including Monroe.**

**The sample letter below may be copied and pasted for your use.**

**Governor Phil Murphy** (Democrat)

4 Year Term (2018-2021)

PO Box 001

West State Street

Trenton, NJ 08625

609-292-6000

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/contact/>

**Senator Linda R. Greenstein** (Democrat)

4 Year Term (2018-2021)

1249 South River Road, Suite 105

Cranbury, NJ 08512

609-395-9911

sengreenstein@njleg.org

**Assemblyman Daniel R. Benson** (Democrat)

2 Year Term (2020-2021)

3691A Nottingham Way

Hamilton Square, NJ 08690

609-631-0198

asmbenson@njleg.org

**Assemblyman Wayne P. DeAngelo** (Democrat)

2 Year Term (2020-2021)

4621A Nottingham Way

Hamilton, NJ 08690

609-631-7501

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[Insert Name and Address of Legislator]

[Insert Date]

Dear Governor Murphy:

As a resident of Monroe Township, Middlesex County NJ, I am writing this letter to urge you to support the immediate design and implementation of a New School Funding Formula which will more equitably distribute school aid to ALL communities, including Monroe.

The current funding formula School Funding Reform Act 2008, (SFRA), is now fifteen years from its design and it no longer distributes school aid in a relevant and fair manner.

Specifically, SFRA calculates the cost of providing each student an “adequate” education through the calculation of the weighted “adequacy budget”. Equalization Aid then is specifically designed to provide state aid to support a district’s adequacy budget, but because of the local fair share component, which examines a district’s wealth through its income and property valuations, Monroe has never received a single dollar of Equalization Aid under the current formula. Taxpayers are required then to fully fund their adequacy budget through the local tax levy, despite the material cost of mandates contained throughout. Even with the enactment of S-2, which restores some additional funding to those districts, like Monroe, that have been underfunded for years, the repeal of enrollment growth caps and redistribution of Adjustment Aid, with additional State contributions to fully fund the formula by 2024-2025, is still far from equitable.

Monroe Township school district taxpayers currently pay over 85% of the cost of education, which is approximately \$ 120M of the \$141M budget. Monroe Township School District receives only \$7.8 million in General Fund State Aid, which is slightly above \$1,000 per student. The average State aid allocation for all other similar districts in Middlesex County is approximately six times that amount per student. The very heavy property tax burden is levied on a community consisting of over one third senior citizens aged sixty-five years or older.

Additionally, Monroe has been extremely disadvantaged in the allocation of Federal resources to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Federal stimulus monies through the Cares grant and other programs, were distributed by the State based on Title I allocation methods. Total student enrollment should have been considered in this allocation, not just students at risk and low income. Again, the cost of Covid-19 preparedness fell on the taxpayers.

The Monroe Township school district is facing enormous challenges to accommodate increased student enrollment growth, to provide transportation to approximately 97% of students, and to upgrade and maintain aged facilities. The current funding formula is long overdue in its need for redesign to provide schools with a fair allocation of aid to address these current issues.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely yours,

[Insert Your Name, Address, Telephone Number]