



# Upper Township School District

---

525 Perry Road • Petersburg, NJ 08270  
Phone (609) 628-3500 • Fax (609) 628-2002  
[www.upperschools.org](http://www.upperschools.org)

---

March 1, 2023

Governor Phil Murphy  
Office of New Jersey Governor  
225 W State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: Upper Township School District

Dear Governor Murphy:

Please find attached a resolution from the Upper Township Board of Education seeking relief from 18A:7F.45. Contrary to the New Jersey preschool expansion initiative, we are in a position where cutting our preschool will result in significant savings allowing us to maintain a safe and appropriate environment and program in our K-8 district.

Sincerely,

Christopher H. Kobik  
Acting Superintendent of Upper Township

Michele Barbieri, President  
Upper Township Board of Education

c: Assembly Education Committee  
Senate Education Committee  
Judith DeStefano, Interim Executive County Superintendent

**UPPER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Governor of New Jersey has a goal for expanding public preschool; and,

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has allocated preschool funding public schools having more than ten percent of its student population as qualified for free and reduced lunch; and,

WHEREAS, the calculation for our K-8 District is calculated in such a way that our former students attending other districts 9-12 are also included in this calculation; and,

WHEREAS, our free and reduced calculation K-8 is above ten-percent (10%); and,

WHEREAS, the percentage decreases to less than ten-percent (10%) when those out of district 9-12 students are included; and,

WHEREAS, the Upper Township School District is an S-2 district where state aid has been cut more than four million dollars in the past five years; and,

WHEREAS, the district must reduce costs; and,

WHEREAS, our preschool program runs a deficit of \$165,727 with three sections, comprised of 49 students; and,

WHEREAS, our annual waiting list for preschool runs at 20-25 applicants; and,

WHEREAS, there are ten private preschool providers in Cape May County, and this represents evidence of high demand; and,

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Upper Township Board of Education seeks relief from 18A:7F.45 to maintain and expand its preschool program.