

Dear Governor Phil Murphy,

I am writing to you today to express my deep concern regarding the recent loss of funding for the Upper Township School District in Cape May County, NJ. Our school is already working on a small budget, and this loss of funding, which amounts to \$1,352,793 or 3.54% of our budget, will inevitably lead to the cutting of critical programs, services, and even staff.

What is even more concerning is that the state aid to our district has been cut by 22.53% from last year, which is a significant loss of support for our schools. This funding cut will have a far-reaching impact on our students, teachers, and staff, and it will make it challenging for our school district to provide the high-quality education that our students deserve.

The STEM initiative led us to create a STEM program seven years ago, which has been instrumental in preparing our students for the 21st-century workforce, will not be able to grow and cultivate students' aptitude. Additionally, our math and English programs, which help aid in remediation & enrichment of our students' learning, will be demolished. Maintaining and upgrades of our technological infrastructure, which is essential for the education of our students, will also suffer.

Our preschool program, a NJ state initiative led under your tenure, which has been a cornerstone of our district for many years, is now in danger of being eliminated altogether due to this decrease in funding. This would be a devastating blow to the many families in our community who rely on this program to provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children to learn and grow.

Finally, I must express my deep concern about the potential for staff cuts in our district. Our teachers, administrators, and support staff are the backbone of our educational system, and they are the reason why our students have been so successful over the years. Losing any of these valuable professionals would be a significant setback for our district, and it would undoubtedly have a negative impact on the quality of education that our students receive.

Given the dire situation facing our district, I urge you to consider restoring the funding that has been taken. This funding is critical to the future of our community, and it will enable us to continue providing the high-quality education that our students deserve. Our district has always strived to provide the highest quality education for our students, but this recent loss of funding has made that goal much more difficult to achieve. I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I hope that you will take swift action to address our concerns.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]