

Upper Township School District Budget Crisis- We need your help!

Dear Upper Township School District Community:

With the recent state aid announcements, we received the news that our district has now lost another half million dollars in funding. This means, over the past seven years, the total state aid loss to our district is more than six million dollars.

Our district now faces a 3 million dollar budget shortfall for the 2024-2025 school year. This lost aid has already put a strain on the district. This current loss will result in a significant reduction in programs and staff. When inflation costs are factored in, the dollar loss behind each student in the classroom is even greater. What does this mean for our students? Sadly, the impact will be painful, including devastating reductions in staff and programs. Our District deserves better. Our students deserve better.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Contact our legislators and let them know you are very concerned for the educational future of our children!

Follow these 5 easy steps:

1. Contact members of the Senate Education Committee using the links below:

Senate Education Committee

Gopal, Vin <i>Chair</i>	Senator Owen Henry
Turner, Shirley K. <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Senator Angela V. McKnight
Corrado, Kristin M.	

2. Clicking the link will take you to their respective contact page where you will find a form.
3. Use the following information to enter into the required fields:
 - a. **Subject:** Education - Finance
 - b. **Group:** Upper Twp School District
 - c. **Relationship:** Concerned Voter and Taxpayer
 - d. **Email Subject:** S2 Funding/Impact On Our Kids
4. Copy and paste the letter on the following page into the *message* field.
5. Click ***Submit Email***

Dear [Insert Name Governor, Senator, Assemblyman/women]

As a proud New Jersey voter and resident of Upper Township Township for [INSERT NUMBER] years, I am very concerned for the educational future of our children. As a result of the pandemic, we have endured physical, emotional, and financial difficulties. While the pandemic is seemingly behind us, the impact can still be felt. But unfortunately, we cannot plan for future needs because you have now burdened us with crippling state aid cuts for our school district.

While we thank you for providing temporary relief with supplemental aid of \$900,000 for the '23-'24 school year, these types of one time efforts do little when, since 2019, more than \$6 million of state school funding has been stripped away from Upper Township schools, causing long-term consequences for our students. Due to continued increases in expenses for salaries, insurance premiums, building maintenance, transportation costs, goods and services, contractor fees, out-of-district tuition, inflation, increased tuition costs to receiving districts and unfunded state mandates, valuable school resources will now be eliminated.

For '24-'25, our district's school budget projections reflect an additional state aid cut, resulting in a total loss of \$6.2 million over a 7-year period! Unless the State steps in, Upper Township schools will be forced to significantly reduce or eliminate educational programs that increase class sizes and **directly** impact children.

It is time for the Governor and the NJ legislators to do the right thing and implement solutions that address funding disparities. How many times must you hear that the NJ School Funding Formula is flawed and antiquated? You don't take into account increased student learning needs, increased special education costs, economic conditions in the 21st century and what is most baffling, it does not even look at adequacy spending when that is a primary function of the formula!

I support Upper Township's amazing schools and demand the same support from you. Our children's future cannot and should not wait. We expect and look forward to your immediate action.

Respectfully,
[Full Name(s)]
[Full Address]