

ACTION ALERT

ISSUES:

PRIORITY #1 - Nonpublic school transportation. The ceiling for nonpublic school transportation had been frozen at \$884.00 from the 2007-2008 school year until it was increased to \$1,000 in the Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations Act. However, Governor Murphy's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget reduced the amount back to \$884. Please note the enclosed Talking Points for discussing nonpublic school busing with legislators and other interested individuals in order to restore the per-pupil amount to \$1,000. **This involves no increase in State funding, but rather a shifting of money to best serve the needs of our students and their parents.**

PRIORITY #2 - Governor Murphy's proposed 2019 Budget cut \$3.8 million from nonpublic school aid reducing it from \$101,603 million to \$97,803 million. The cuts were made in Nonpublic School Nursing Services and Technology Aid. Please note the enclosed Talking Points for discussing these accounts with legislators and other interested individuals.

PRIORITY #3 – We are requesting a Budget Resolution which would permit a nonpublic school to pool the aggregate of the school's funding for Nursing Services, Technology, and Security, in order to move the funds to where they best fit the needs of the students in the local school for that particular year. **Once again, this involves no increase in State funding, but rather allowing funds to be utilized to best serve the needs of our students and their parents.** Public school accounts already are "fungible," which means that the public school district can move within Budget lines the State funds in a given year to best serve the needs of their students.

OUR POSITION: The New Jersey Catholic Conference and the New Jersey Network of Catholic School Families seek:

1. To restore the per-pupil transportation ceiling to \$1,000 by using funds currently in the Fiscal Year 2019 Governor's Budget. **This is THE major issue for the Catholic schools.**
2. To restore the \$3.8 million removed from the nonpublic school accounts in the Governor's Budget for Nonpublic Nursing Services Aid and Technology Aid at least to the level of funding in the Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations Act.
3. To insert Budget language to permit the local nonpublic school to pool the State funds for Nursing Services, Technology and Security to serve the needs of the students more effectively.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

1. Call, write, email, or visit the members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee (see enclosed list) and the Assembly Budget Committee (see enclosed list) and ask them to increase the \$884.00 transportation ceiling to last year's amount of \$1,000. If your district does not have legislators on either of the Committees, call, write, email, or visit your own legislators and ask that they speak with members of those two Committees in order to increase the funding. This transportation increase could be accomplished by

shifting anticipated overages in the current Governor's Budget without increasing the overall budget. Budget Resolution #2124 from FY 2018, which restored the per-pupil amount to \$1,000 by the shift of anticipated refunds in last year's Budget is attached as Appendix A.

2. Call, write, email, or visit the members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Budget Committee (see enclosed list) and ask them to restore the \$3.8 million in nursing and technology for the 2018-2019 school year. If your district does not have legislators on either of the Committees, call, write, email, or visit your legislator and ask that they speak with members of those two committees in order to restore this aid. Last year's Budget Resolutions 2008 and 2009 are enclosed as Appendices B and C as the model for this year.
3. Call, write, email, or visit the members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Budget Committee (see enclosed list) and ask them to introduce a Budget Resolution permitting a nonpublic school to pool its money in nursing, technology, and security to serve their students better. A sample Budget Resolution is enclosed as Appendix D.

THIS IS NOT A "ONE AND DONE" CAMPAIGN. WE WILL NEED TO FOLLOW-UP A NUMBER OF TIMES OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS IN ORDER THAT THE ISSUES REMAIN A PRIORITY IN THE MINDS OF THE LEGISLATORS. REMEMBER THAT GOVERNOR MURPHY'S BUDGET HAS OVER \$285 MILLION IN NEW MONEY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WHILE IT CUTS OUR TRANSPORTATION, NURSING, AND TECHNOLOGY FUNDING.

**You may use the New Jersey Catholic Conference Faith in Action - Voter Voice system
which can be accessed at:**

<https://www.votervoice.net/NJCC/Campaigns/58388/Respond>