



Governor Christie's Budget Address: What does it mean for us?

1. School Funding was the closing topic in the Governor's remarks for a reason. This is part of his legacy building efforts, and he recognizes the importance of this endeavor as he begins the negotiation of his final budget.
2. For the 2017 – 2018 school year, Swedesboro-Woolwich received FLAT STATE AID. We received no increase in our state aid; therefore we are still underfunded by approximately 55%
3. Governor Christie did not craft a budget that implemented his *Fairness Formula*. This is significant and illustrates his willingness to work toward a fair and equitable solution with the legislative leadership.
4. The Governor characterized the SFRA as broken. Both Senate President Sweeney and FFAC agree that the Hold Harmless Provisions (i.e. enrollment caps, adjustment aid) essentially broke the SFRA. It created a formula that was not economically viable. Allowing these provisions to continue will perpetuate the cycle of underfunding for the majority of school districts in NJ.
5. Governor Christie extended “an olive branch” to the legislative leaders. He outlined a **100 Day Budget Negotiation Challenge** for the NJ leadership team (Prieto, Sweeney, and Christie) to come together on the school funding formula crisis.
6. The 100 Days is at the center of budget negotiation talks!
7. Failure to compromise and unite behind a fair, equitable, and constitutional formula will be devastating for our schools for future budget cycles.



WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS FOR FFAC?

Our organizational subcommittees will continue to connect with underfunded districts ALL ACROSS NJ. We are reaching out to Superintendents, Boards of Education, Municipal Officials, and PTA/PTO groups. Our goal is to ensure that all underfunded districts engage in this discussion, and join our efforts to demand that the Governor and Legislature work to **FUND OUR SCHOOLS FAIRLY** by phasing out the Hold Harmless Provisions in order to make the SFRA solvent.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. “Like” our FB page so you can receive up to date information
2. We just established our Twitter account. Please “follow us”. Like and retweet our posts which are now going out directly onto the pages of NJ Legislative Members along with Governor Christie’s feed.

3. CALL, TWEET, REPEAT!

Calling and Tweeting are the most effective ways to reach our legislative targets during this 100 Day Budget Challenge laid out by the Governor.

Assembly Speaker Prieto: 201-770-1303

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Tell him to compromise and run the SFRA without Hold Harmless Provisions. Tell him “Underfunded schools in all legislative districts including district 32 deserve fair and equitable funding. Do your job!”