



Dear <TARGET>:

My name is [\[Insert Name\]](#) and I am a resident of Monroe Township, New Jersey in Middlesex County. I kindly request that you support the immediate design and implementation of a new School Funding Formula (SFF), which will more equitably distribute school aid to all New Jersey School districts, including the Monroe Township School District (MTSD).

Earlier in 2022, a proposal (A3578, S354) was made to legislators for the establishment of a school funding task force (A3578, S354). The envisioned purpose of this task force was to review and redesign the school funding formula to provide all school districts with a fair and equitable allocation of aid. Regrettably, no movement has been made on this legislation in over a year. As a result, our students, staff members, and community continue to be negatively affected by this unfair formula.

Listed below are some explicit flaws in the current SFF:

- The SFF has not been updated or revised in over 15 years and is not driven by current demographic evolutions/reports
- The MTSD currently receives no (\$0.00) equalization aid from the state
- The MTSD currently receives <\$1,000 per student
- Approximately 50% of the residents in Monroe Township live on fixed incomes

In Spring 2023, the Monroe Township School District was notified that Budget Resolution #924 “Appropriating \$1 million to the Monroe Township School District for infrastructure improvements at the Applegarth Elementary School” was included in the final budget signed by Governor Murphy.

While our district is very grateful to have the allotted \$1 million appropriated to address some of the infrastructure needs of our district, this amount falls far below the amount needed to meet the operational and curricular needs of our rapidly expanding and diverse learning community. The scope of our district’s needs expands beyond a singular school building and has been magnified by the rapid growth and development of the Monroe Township Learning Community. Currently, our district’s emergent infrastructure needs include, but are not limited to:

- **Applegarth Elementary School** | [ADA Toilet Room Renovations](#)
- **Monroe Township Middle School** | [HVAC Systems \(Replacement & Upgrade\)](#)
- **Monroe Township Middle School** | [Boiler Replacement](#)
- **Monroe Township Middle School** | [ADA Toilet Room Renovations](#)
- **Monroe Township Middle School** | [Partial Window Replacement](#)
- **Monroe Township High School** | [Stadium Bleachers, Storage, & Team Rooms](#)

The minimal allotment of annual state aid we receive has significantly crippled the MTSD’s ability to manage our emergent facility needs within our operating budget. It is unfair to continue placing this heavy financial burden on taxpayers, who are already paying for ~85% of the district’s operational cost. Therefore, I ask you to pass the school funding task force legislation and prioritize creating an equitable school funding formula. The Monroe Township School District is always willing to discuss our continued need for additional school funding with officials, including those from the NJDOE and local governments. We hope you would be willing to meet with stakeholders from the MTSD and leaders from our local Board of Education, to speak about our unique financial needs, and operational constraints resulting from the lack of adequate state funding.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to support the Monroe Township School District.

Sincerely,

