

# LEGISLATOR INFO

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# WHAT DO I SAY?

To be as effective as possible in influencing our legislators, it's important that we all stay "on message." Several residents have stated that they want to help, but they don't know what to say. Please know that these are suggestions - **above all else, speak from the heart!**

## TALKING POINTS & REMINDERS:

- Chesterfield is the most underfunded district in the state.
- As a result of underfunding, we are forced to cut staff and programs and it is inhibiting our ability to provide a thorough and efficient education for our students.
- Eliminate growth caps. No one capped our enrollment, so why would you cap our aid?
- Reallocate adjustment aid. It's unfair that some districts like Manalapan and Old Bridge have been funded at over 100% while Chesterfield is funded at only 20%. We have been under-funded for nearly a decade.
- Chesterfield residents are overtaxed. Our residents pay more than their local fair share of taxes while other districts with increased funding are paying far lower than theirs.
- Bottom line: Chesterfield students are worth more than 20% and our taxpayers should not be forced to pay 131% of our Local Fair Share

## EXAMPLE:

Dear Assemblyman,

As a resident of Chesterfield NJ, the lowest funded school district in the state, I'm contacting you to express my disappointment with our current school aid numbers. A state aid increase of \$41,060 this year, for a total of \$862,248, when we should receive \$4.2 million is unacceptable. Year after year, we are forced to make cuts to staffing and programs in our local school. Meanwhile, we are paying 131% of our Local Fair Share.

I am very much hoping that you will quickly come out in favor of Senate President Sweeney's school aid proposal which provides additional revenue for allocation to severely underfunded districts like Chesterfield. Additionally, I hope you will work with your colleagues in the legislature to remove growth caps. Our community has seen an explosion in growth, and yet for most of the last ten years we received the same amount of aid to educate over 200% more students! Meanwhile, 35 percent of schools in New Jersey are superfunded, some of them have had their enrollments drop, and yet their aid remains high nonetheless.

We need 100% of uncapped funding NOW. To do this will require political courage on the part of you and your colleagues in the legislature. Failing to act this year is not an option. Do what's right, be a champion for our schools, and fulfill your obligation to the taxpayers of Chesterfield.

Respectfully, Chesterfield Resident

# WHAT DO I SAY? - CES PARENT

To be as effective as possible in influencing our legislators, it's important that we all stay "on message." Several residents have stated that they want to help, but they don't know what to say. Please know that these are suggestions - **above all else, speak from the heart!**

## TALKING POINTS & REMINDERS:

- Tell them how this affects you and your children! Speak from the heart!
- Chesterfield is the most underfunded district in the state.
- As a result of underfunding, we are forced to cut staff and programs and it is inhibiting our ability to provide a thorough and efficient education for our students.
- Please support Senator Sweeney's plan for school aid. Co-sponsor the legislation. Encourage your caucus to also support it.
- Eliminate growth caps. No one capped our enrollment, so why would you cap our aid?
- Reallocate adjustment aid. It's unfair that some districts like Asbury Park, Manalapan, and Old Bridge have been overfunded and under taxed for almost a decade while Chesterfield is funded at 20% and taxed at 131% of our local fair share.
- Chesterfield residents are overtaxed. Our residents pay more than their local fair share of taxes while other districts with increased funding are paying far lower than theirs.
- Bottom line: Chesterfield students are worth more than 20%.

## EXAMPLE:

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I am very much hoping that you will quickly come out in favor of Senate President Sweeney's school aid proposal which provides additional revenue for allocation to severely underfunded districts like Chesterfield. Additionally, I hope you will work with your colleagues in the legislature to remove growth caps. Our community has seen an explosion in growth, and yet for most of the last ten years we received the same amount of aid to educate more than 200% more students! Meanwhile, 35 percent of schools in New Jersey are superfunded, and some of them have had their enrollments drop, and yet their aid remains high nonetheless.

A photo of my children is enclosed. My children go to Chesterfield Elementary School and they are worth far more than the 20% of school funding their school receives each year. They and their classmates cannot wait another year. We need 100% of uncapped aid NOW. To do this will require political courage on the part of you and your colleagues in the legislature. Failing to act this year is not an option. Do what's right, be a champion for our schools, and by proxy, these awesome kids.

Respectfully, Chesterfield Resident

## HOW CAN WE FIX THIS?

Text @fairfunds  
to 81010

Contact  
Legislators

Attend a budget  
hearing

## BUDGET HEARING INFO

### SENATE

March 29:

NJIT Campus Center Atrium  
150 Bleeker Street Newark, NJ

April 3:

Rowan University, Engineering Hall  
Room 320  
600 North Campus Drive  
Glassboro, NJ

### ASSEMBLY

March 28:

State House Annex  
Committee Room 11, 4th Floor  
Trenton, NJ

April 9:

State House Annex  
Committee Room 11, 4th Floor  
Trenton, NJ

## BUDGET HEARING INFO

**BUS INFO: (April 9 only)**  
Call CES and RSVP  
(609) 298-6900

**TO TESTIFY:**  
[http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/  
BudgetReg\\_DB/default.asp](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/BudgetReg_DB/default.asp)

**Wear your  
Chesterfield Blue!**

## WHAT DO I SAY?

Support Senator  
Sweeney's Plan

Reallocate  
adjustment aid.

Remove growth  
caps.

**SPEAK FROM THE HEART!**