



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

I hope this district update finds you well. Below, please see the latest updates from around the district. Thank you, and have a great day.

High School Turf Field Construction

At last week's Board of Education meeting, it was decided to award the turf field bid to FieldTurf, a reputable industry leader with strong recommendations from other area school districts. While the Board of Education and the Community Turf Committee are still finalizing field specifications, **we have made an important decision regarding the timeline.** Construction of the turf field will begin on **June 19th** and continue into the fall. This timeline is designed to minimize the impact of heavy construction activity on school grounds and to **preserve our cherished tradition of holding high school graduation on our high school field and stadium**, weather permitting. Please stay tuned for more details as the project progresses. For your reference, I have attached additional safety information about FieldTurf for your review.

NJ State School Funding

In recent weeks, I've attended several New Jersey school funding forums, including one in my hometown last evening with concerned educational leaders. With Governor Murphy's budget address scheduled for late February, Haddon Township and many other districts have reached a critical point. **We cannot reasonably absorb anything less than the full restoration of last year's aid cuts**, where funds were seemingly redirected to other districts due to an increase in our residents' aggregate income. Our Board of Education President, Ms. Kellie Hinkle, has strongly advocated for and organized the **NJ Fair Funding Collective** to push for equitable financial support statewide, including **the critical need for an immediate increase in special education funding** where we are exceeding allocated funds and **lacking sufficient financial resources**. Please see the link below for more information about this important organization and how to get involved, along with my testimony from last year before the State Senate committee. Advocacy is more critical now than ever.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= GqMalxBgQM&t=411s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqMalxBgQM&t=411s)

<https://njffc.org/>

ICE Agents

Recently, I have received many emails about the new federal stipulations allowing ICE officers access to schools. I want to take this opportunity to assure you of our unwavering commitment to the safety, education, and well-being of all Haddon Township students. Our mission is to maximize the quality and consistency of learning every day, a responsibility we take with the utmost seriousness. To that end, I want to make it clear that ICE agents will only be allowed entry into our schools if they present a **judicial warrant**, and in such a case, the district administration will supervise entry and make parental notifications. An **administrative warrant** will not be sufficient to require admittance. We are working closely with the New Jersey Department of Education, which has provided clear guidance on this matter to ensure our students and families' rights and safety are upheld. I have included their guidance below for your reference. **Our responsibilities are for the safety and education of every student in our schools.** We stand firm in this commitment and will continue to **minimize any type of school disruption** while striving for an environment where every child feels secure, supported, engaged, and able to thrive academically.

<https://nj.gov/education/security/studentrights/index.shtml>

Super Bowl Monday

I have received some questions regarding our plans for Super Bowl Monday. While the big game between the Eagles and Chiefs is an exciting opportunity to celebrate community and team spirit, we will **not** be modifying our school schedule for Monday, February 10th. **We believe in the importance of balancing celebration with responsibility.** Preparing students for college, careers, and life readiness is a top priority, and **showing up on time, even after a late night, is a valuable life skill.** Thank you for your understanding, and go, Eagles.

Community Support

I am pleased to share how the Haddon Township Police Department and EMS continue to support our school district. Haddon Township Police recently visited each school to replace our Narcan supplies, ensuring they remain up to date. Additionally, one of our fire commissioners has graciously agreed to work with our district nurses to provide Basic Life Support and CPR certification renewals this spring. These partnerships help to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff, and **we applaud each organization for its unwavering and ongoing support.**

Thank you for your continued partnership in education.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent