



Perth Amboy Public Schools

Administrative Headquarters Building

178 Barracks Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

February 21, 2026

Dear Perth Amboy Employees and Families:

We write to address the reckless statement delivered by the leadership of the Perth Amboy American Federation of Teachers (AFT) before the New Jersey State Assembly Education Committee on February 19, 2026. The AFT's remarks were unfounded, disparaging, and devoid of credible data or meaningful solutions.

THERE IS NO DEFICIT. The figure repeatedly cited by the AFT leadership reflects a corrective transfer to resolve prior-period accounting errors that predate the reforms implemented by the current Business Administrator. Rather than engage with the facts or acknowledge the District's documented progress, AFT leadership chose to present inaccurate information to the Committee—mischaracterizing the audit, conflating its scope with erroneous claims of mismanagement, and disregarding the District's demonstrated transparency and strengthened internal controls. They also presented several scenarios to the Assembly Education Committee that were not grounded in verified facts but instead relied on information circulated through social media.

While other organizations used their time appropriately before the Committee to advocate responsibly for increased funding—particularly in response to rising costs in special education, transportation, and health insurance—the AFT leadership chose instead to mislead rather than contribute. In contrast, those organizations presented data, identified challenges, and advanced constructive, solution-oriented recommendations. The complete absence of questions or discussion from the Assembly Education Committee following the testimony of the AFT's leadership was striking and reflected poorly on them.

The AFT's narrative by its leadership omitted critical context and ignored the substantial work undertaken to improve operations, safeguard public resources, and support both staff and students. The District has strengthened reconciliation practices, enhanced procurement oversight, improved benefits administration, and implemented policy and control updates aligned with audit recommendations. These are measurable, documented improvements driven by the professionalism and commitment of our educators, support staff, and administrators—individuals who deserve recognition, not disparagement.

Rather than engage in baseless and irresponsible attacks, we will continue to correct the record with facts, act in good faith, and remain focused on what matters most: supporting our staff and educating every child. We encourage our teachers, staff, and families to rely on



Perth Amboy Public Schools

Administrative Headquarters Building

178 Barracks Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Page 2

February 21, 2026

verified information, reject rhetoric that erodes trust, and join us in advancing meaningful solutions that strengthen our schools and support student success.

The dedication of our teachers and support staff is the foundation of this District. We stand with you, we value your work, and we will continue investing in the systems and supports that enable your success.

Our commitment to transparency, accountability, and collaboration remains unwavering. We will not be distracted by statements intended to divide our community. Our focus remains clear: serving our students with integrity, respect, and purpose.

Thank you.

Perth Amboy Public School District