

# Chesterfield Township Board of Education

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July 10, 2018

Dear Chesterfield Township Community,

The fight for fair school funding has scored a major victory! The State of New Jersey approved the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget which includes a significant increase in funding for the Chesterfield Township School District. We anticipate an increase in funding for the 2018-2019 school year in the amount of \$1,582,592 which will bring our total funding to \$2,403,780.\* As you know, in recent years our district has been funded as low as ~9.5%. This increase in funding will bring the district to 58% funding. Although not our goal of 100% funding, this is a significant increase that will have a tremendous, positive impact on our school district.

Additionally, the Legislature has passed A2 and S2 which, once signed, will provide a long term solution to the deficiencies in the School Funding Reform Act. A2/S2 eliminate the growth cap, phase out adjustment aid over a 7 year period, and allocate new aid based on funding deficit. We anxiously await Governor Murphy's signature on this front.

The fight for fair school funding has been difficult with roadblock after roadblock. However, working together within the school district and township, as well as working together with other groups and school districts throughout the state, we've been able to overcome those roadblocks. On behalf of the Chesterfield Township Board of Education, I want to thank everyone for your efforts to bring fair funding to Chesterfield and all schools throughout New Jersey. It was a team effort of which we can all be proud.

The next step is allocating these additional funds. Our Superintendent and Business Administrator have been hard at work gathering information in anticipation of receiving additional funds and Superintendent Scott Heino has formulated a plan. The Board of Education finance committee has been meeting with Superintendent Heino and our Business Administrator in order to review and revise this plan. In doing so, the committee has sought and considered community input. This plan has now been shared with the full Board and **we will be having a meeting on July 12 at 7pm at the school in order to present the plan to the community.** This will be another opportunity for you to voice your views. We hope to see you there and look forward to continuing our partnership.

Sincerely,

Jignesh Shah  
President  
Chesterfield Township Board of Education

\* This figure is based on an increase from our 2017-18 state aid. As with last year's funding increase, we anticipate that the additional funds will come with guidelines on how they may be utilized.