

## **FACT SHEET/TALKING POINTS ON NONPUBLIC SCHOOL NURSING SERVICES**

Even though the language recommendations on page D-86 of the Governor's FY '12 proposed budget indicates the nursing services for nonpublic school students shall be funded at \$77.20 per pupil, the actual amount with the flat-funded 15% cut from last year is \$65.56.

- Given the increase in potential life-threatening situations in schools as the result of both the day to day operations and natural disasters (e.g. fuel spills, fires, and other situations), the nurse is truly the first responder in cases of school emergencies. With all the requirements of specialized health needs for children, the presence of the nurse is critical. Loss in funding results in hours during which the nurse is unavailable to the school community.
- Consider that the original nonpublic school nursing services bill passed in 1991 allocated \$60.00 per pupil for these services, an increase of \$5.56 per pupil since 1991 is hardly a way to keep pace with inflation. Furthermore, nonpublic school students are at the mercy of the contracts given for these service contracts which are negotiated using either district personnel or a third party contractor (e.g. educational services commissions, special services school districts, visiting nurses organizations, public health departments, etc.) We have no control over the actual hourly rate for nurses nor the cost of administrative fees charged by both the district and/or the service provider.
- We ask that the Legislature restore the funding for nonpublic nursing services to the \$77.20 amount specified on D-86 of the Governor's proposed Budget which can be found at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/omb/publications/11budget/pdf/34.pdf>. We estimate that this would take between \$2.7M and \$2.8M of additional money; however, please note that the State Aid to public schools increased by over \$250M this year. Additionally, the public schools were eligible for money from the federal Jobs Bill for educational personnel which was signed by President Obama on August 10, 2010, and provided money exclusively for educational personnel in New Jersey's public schools. Nonpublic school students were ineligible to receive any services with that money.