



# NJCAPE Council for American Private Education

*"To promote the interests and betterment of private/nonpublic schools within the State of New Jersey"*

Statement on Fiscal Year 2012 State Budget  
Senate Budget and Appropriations Hearing  
March 15, 2011

Good morning Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. My name is Dr. George Corwell, Director of the Office of Education for the New Jersey Catholic Conference and I am speaking on behalf of the over 171,000 nonpublic school students and their families represented by the members of the New Jersey Council for American Private Education (NJCAPE).

I am speaking this morning about the nonpublic school accounts in Governor Christie's proposed budget. Like others in New Jersey, we fully accept the need to be part of the decisions to reduce funding in order to stabilize our economy. However, over the last two years, the nonpublic school accounts in the budget have been reduced by 24.9%.

Since the days of the Kean Administration, nonpublic school accounts have been funded at the same level of increase or decrease as the public school accounts. However, while the school aid for public school students in FY '11 received an additional \$237M more to restore FY '10 cuts, our accounts remained stagnated. Additionally, after the FY '11 was signed, an additional \$268M came from the Jobs Bill of the federal government (cf. Appendix A) which made an impact on any losses that were suffered by the public schools as a result of this year's State Budget. Nonpublic school students were ineligible to receive any benefits from the federal Jobs Bill.

Our first concern is nonpublic nursing services. Even though the per-pupil amount listed in the budget language on page D-86 of the Governor's FY '12 Budget indicates a per-pupil rate of \$77.20, the cuts imposed over the last two years have reduced that amount to \$65.56. Over the last several years, the nurse has played the major role as a first responder in a number of key emergencies that have taken place in all schools. Additionally, because the nonpublic school is dependent upon the district or a subcontractor for these services, the school has no control over such things as administrative costs – an amount which eats away at the allocations. Thus, the nature and the number of these nursing services have eroded substantially over the years from the inception of the legislation when, as a point of information, the actual rate was \$60.00 per pupil in 1991. An increase of \$5.00 per pupil over 20 years is hardly enough even to come close to keeping pace with inflation.

Another casualty of the 24.9% budget cuts was the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative. A copy of this former program is listed as Appendix B in this testimony. The program was funded at \$40.00 per pupil to provide nonpublic school students with computers, educational software, distance learning equipment, and other technologies that would improve their education by meeting specific educational needs. Additionally, the

money could be used for professional development for nonpublic school teachers in order to use educational technologies effectively to improve teaching and learning in the classroom. All materials provided under this program were on loan from the public school district and the property of that district. We ask that this program be restored at its previous level of funding.

Finally, Chapter 192-193 services have provided nonpublic school pupils with minimal amounts of compensatory education and special education services since 1977. These services include such things as examination/classification of potentially classified pupils, home instruction, supplemental instruction, speech instruction, and English as a Second Language instruction. The specific per-pupil amounts are in the language recommendations in the Governor's Budget listed on D-86. However, just like nursing services, these amounts have not been funded at that level for the past two years. As a result, the amount of instructional time afforded these students has eroded from the required 60 minutes per week to 45 or 30 minutes per week. Once again, subcontractors and districts are required to pay salaries negotiated with their teachers, - a situation over which we have no control - and thus the only way for them to maintain those salary levels is to reduce instructional time for pupils when the per-pupil amounts are cut. We ask that the per-pupil amounts be restored to those listed in the Governor's Budget on D-86.

We appreciate all of the efforts that you are making and will continue to make to provide the citizens of New Jersey with the best possible services within available dollars in the state budget for 2012.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our requests.

Submitted by: George V. Corwell, Ed.D.  
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Funds for State Formula-Allocated and Selected Student Aid Programs  
U.S. Department of Education Funding  
New Jersey

	2010		2011		2012		Change Fiscal Year 2011 to 2012	
	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Amount	Percent		
College- and Career Ready Students	298,946,165	299,799,403	299,137,394	299,137,394	-662,209	-0.2%		
Title I Rewards	0	0	6,169,282	6,169,282	6,169,282	11.6%		
School Turnaround Grants	11,064,048	11,030,480	12,306,494	12,306,494	1,276,014	-100.0%		
Striving Readers Formula Grants	150,000	150,000	0	0	-150,000	-100.0%		
Even Start	1,242,734	1,231,429	0	0	-1,231,429	-100.0%		
State Agency Program--Migrant Student Education	2,038,385	2,038,385	2,038,385	2,038,385	0	0.0%		
State Agency Program--Neglected and Delinquent Children and Youth Education	2,468,933	2,463,064	2,463,064	2,463,064	0	0.0%		
Subtotal, Accelerating Achievement & Ensuring Equity	315,910,265	316,712,761	322,114,619	322,114,619	5,401,858	1.7%		
Impact Aid Basic Support Payments	13,173,379	13,260,178	13,260,178	13,260,178	0	0.0%		
Impact Aid Payments for Children with Disabilities	225,860	259,169	259,169	259,169	0	0.0%		
Impact Aid Construction	137,151	154,673	154,673	154,673	-154,673	-100.0%		
Subtotal, Impact Aid	13,536,390	13,674,020	13,519,347	13,519,347	-154,673	-1.1%		
Effective Teachers and Leaders State Grants	0	0	54,072,637	54,072,637	54,072,637	---		
Improving Teacher Quality State Grants	65,378,694	65,308,033	0	0	-65,308,033	-100.0%		
Mathematics and Science Partnerships	3,047,804	3,023,282	0	0	-3,023,282	-100.0%		
Educational Technology State Grants	1,962,311	1,949,231	0	0	-1,949,231	-100.0%		
21st Century Community Learning Centers	21,316,871	23,055,385	0	0	-23,055,385	-100.0%		
Assessing Achievement	9,627,350	9,627,350	9,627,350	9,627,350	0	0.0%		
Rural and Low-income Schools Program	0	0	0	0	0	---		
Small, Rural School Achievement Program	2,154,763	2,154,763	2,018,602	2,018,602	-136,161	-6.3%		
Indian Student Education--Grants to Local Educational Agencies	59,778	59,778	59,778	59,778	0	0.0%		
English Learner Education	20,018,081	20,018,081	20,018,081	20,018,081	0	0.0%		
Homeless Children and Youth Education	1,330,155	1,319,214	1,319,214	1,319,214	0	0.0%		
Subtotal, All of the Above Programs, which were or are proposed to be authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act	454,332,462	456,901,898	422,749,628	422,749,628	-34,152,270	-7.5%		
Special Education--Grants to States	358,978,578	358,858,782	364,473,158	364,473,158	5,614,376	1.6%		
Special Education--Preschool Grants	11,197,623	11,197,623	11,197,623	11,197,623	0	0.0%		
Grants for Infants and Families	10,828,899	10,741,654	11,856,151	11,856,151	1,114,497	10.4%		
Subtotal, Special Education	381,005,100	380,798,059	387,526,932	387,526,932	6,728,873	1.8%		
Career and Technical Education State Grants	23,883,792	23,883,792	20,485,568	20,485,568	-3,398,224	-14.2%		
Teach Prep Education State Grants	2,187,235	2,187,235	0	0	-2,187,235	-100.0%		
Subtotal, Vocational and Adult Education	26,071,027	26,071,027	20,485,568	20,485,568	-5,585,459	-21.4%		
Education Jobs Fund	268,104,738	0	0	0	0	---		
Subtotal, All Elementary/Secondary Level Programs	1,129,513,327	863,770,984	830,762,128	830,762,128	-33,008,856	-3.8%		

# APPENDIX A



## APPENDIX B

# **GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTERING THE NEW JERSEY NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE PROGRAM**

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1. **THE NEW JERSEY NONPUBLIC SCHOOL  
TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE PROGRAM**

The New Jersey Nonpublic School Technology Initiative Program is authorized by language in the Appropriations Act authorizing Nonpublic School Technology Initiative Aid to be paid to school districts and allocated for nonpublic school pupils in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the federal and State constitution.

The program the department has developed requires the board of education in each public school district in New Jersey to provide technology to all students attending a nonpublic school located in the public school district. The goal of the nonpublic technology initiative program is to provide nonpublic school pupils with computers, educational software, distance learning equipment and other technologies that can improve their education by meeting their specific educational needs and to give nonpublic school teachers the skills, resources and incentives to use educational technologies effectively to improve teaching and learning in the classroom. A public school district must provide technology to the nonpublic school and cannot provide the state aid funds to a nonpublic school. A public school district must maintain administrative control over all funds and equipment. A public school district must ensure that all equipment, supplies, and materials purchased with the state aid funds are used solely for the purpose of enhancing the instructional process for nonpublic school students. The use of equipment, supplies, and materials purchased with the state aid funds for religious purposes, the administration of the nonpublic school, or other purposes contrary to law is strictly prohibited. State aid funds must be used to meet the specific technology needs of students and teaching staff members. State aid funds can not be used to supplant benefits normally provided by the nonpublic school. All technology provided under this program to nonpublic school pupils must be used for secular, neutral, non-religious and non-ideological purposes.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative Program the following words shall have the following meaning:

“Nonpublic School” means an elementary or secondary school within the State other than a public school that complies with compulsory school attendance requirements and with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

“Per Pupil” means for each pupil enrolled on the last school day prior to October 16 of the preceding school year.

“Pupil” means any child who is a resident of the State and who is enrolled as a full-time student in a nonpublic school in grades kindergarten through twelve. Kindergarten pupils must be enrolled in a program that meets at least two and one-half hours per day. Kindergarten students must have met the following criteria:

1. Been enrolled as of the last school day prior to October 16 of the previous school year as recorded on the Nonpublic School Enrollment Report.
2. Been enrolled in an educational program that met at least 180 days a year with a certified teacher.
3. Been at least four (4) years of age.

A child who boards at a school but whose parents do not maintain a residence in the State shall not be deemed a resident of the State for the purposes of this program.

"Technology" means using the tools of educational technology (computers, software, videodisks and tapes, CD-ROM, DVD, etc.) to extend and enhance the instructional process for nonpublic school students. Allowable nonpublic school technology initiative program expenditures include the following:

1. Equipment (hardware):

Computers: multimedia, server computers for shared files, electronic mail and world wide web communication;

Digital and video cameras;

Graphing calculators;

Projection devices and other peripheral equipment shared by computer systems;

Data communications systems: local area networks (including multiple connects for every classroom);

Wide area network: high-speed network links that connect schools together, high-speed Internet connection serving more than one school;

Satellite dish;

Distance learning ITV classroom (full-motion interactive video classroom system);

Transportable ITV system (full-motion interactive video classroom on a cart); and

Videoconferencing equipment (e.g., PictureTel, Proshare, Swift Site).

2. Software: programs available on disks, CD-ROMs, etc. used as applications in instructional programs. Software with a religious theme or content is prohibited.
3. Professional Development: training that develops and enhances teachers' technology skills for instructional purposes so that teachers effectively use technology with their curriculum [(for example, participating in sessions offered by the county-based Educational Technology Training Centers)]. Note: The Department of Education has established an Educational Technology Training Center in each county specifically for the purpose of providing professional staff development opportunities for teachers from all grades. The ETTCs are located in facilities that are dedicated to serving teacher training needs on a full-time year-round basis. The ETTCs offer a key resource in each county for educational technology training services. Professional development training may also be provided to nonpublic school teachers on-site in a nonpublic school.

It is recommended that, for every dollar spent on equipment, at least thirty cents be spent on professional development.

4. Maintenance: contracts or per diem support to make sure equipment purchased and loaned to a nonpublic school by a board of education is maintained and remains usable.

Lists of allowable and non-allowable expenditures are posted to the department's web site at <http://www.nj.gov/education/techno/npallowable.htm> and updated as needed.

## 2. STATE AID

a. The State aid provided to the public school district for each participating nonpublic school in the district will be an amount equal to the product of the rate per pupil authorized in the language of the Appropriations Act and the number of pupils on roll in the nonpublic school as of the last school day prior to October 16 of the previous school year as recorded on the Nonpublic School Enrollment Report.

b. Actual expenditures applied against the state aid received for technology may include only expenditures related to providing those items defined as technology on pages four and five of these guidelines. State aid funds may not be expended for items relating to the construction of nonpublic school facilities or for items that cannot be removed from a nonpublic school without remodeling the school.

c. State aid will be paid in full to school districts no later than August 7.

d. Unexpended state aid funds must be returned to the department after the close of the school year.

### **3. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The board of education in each public school district in New Jersey having nonpublic schools within its boundaries is responsible for providing technology to the nonpublic schools within the limits of the funds provided by this program. Such technology may be provided directly by the board of education or by an employee of the school district in the case of professional development, by contracts with an educational service commission, educational technology training center (ETTCs) or an independent contractor. The chief school administrator or designee of the board of education of the public school district must confer with the administrator of each of the participating nonpublic schools within the district for the following purposes:

1. To advise the nonpublic school of the limit of funds available for the provision of technology for the full-time pupils enrolled in the nonpublic school.
2. To agree upon the technology to be provided to the nonpublic school within the limit of the funds that are available for the nonpublic school.

In the event that the chief school administrator or designee and the nonpublic school administrator cannot reach agreement regarding the technology to be provided, the county superintendent shall be consulted to determine the technology to be provided. The decision of the county superintendent shall be final.

A board of education for an elementary constituent district of a regional school district or a regional school district's board of education must provide technology only for nonpublic schools having the grade levels for which the district has responsibility.

The technology provided to nonpublic schools must not include providing instructional services directly to nonpublic school students.

Equipment and supplies comparable to that used in a public school district can be purchased and used to provide the technology to nonpublic schools. Such equipment may be loaned without charge to a nonpublic school for the purpose of providing the technology required under this program. However, such equipment remains the property of the district board of education and must be labeled as such.

The funds expended by a board of education for the administrative costs related to providing technology for a participating nonpublic school must be limited to the actual cost of administering the provision of technology for the participating

nonpublic school or five percent (5%) of the funds allocated for each participating nonpublic school, whichever is less.

Each board of education providing technology to nonpublic schools must submit the following information to the county superintendent on or before October 31 and forward a copy to the administrator(s) of the nonpublic school(s) within their district boundaries.

1. A written statement verifying that the required conference with the nonpublic school administrator was held.
2. A copy of the agreement between the board of education and the nonpublic school and the minutes of the board of education meeting at which the agreement was approved that describes how the technology will be provided to the nonpublic school.

#### **4. INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS**

All nonpublic schools desiring to participate in this program are required to apply each year using the Nonpublic School Enrollment Report.

#### **5. PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT**

a. The district board of education in which each nonpublic school is located receives funds from the State based on the number of pupils enrolled in each nonpublic school as of the last school day prior to October 16 of the previous school year. The Nonpublic School Enrollment Report form determines the amount of State Aid that the district receives. Equipment may be purchased and loaned to a nonpublic school for the period of time needed to provide the technology required by this program. Equipment that may be purchased must be removable from a nonpublic school without remodeling the nonpublic school facility. The equipment purchased must be labeled as "Property of \_\_\_\_\_ (the district board of education)." Equipment may be delivered directly to the nonpublic school if the nonpublic school administrator agrees. The nonpublic school administrator must check the invoice and forward it to the district board of education along with a statement attesting to the fact that all of the equipment has been appropriately labeled indicating the district's ownership. After consultation with the nonpublic school administrator, equipment may also reach a nonpublic school as follows:

1. The nonpublic school may arrange to pick up the equipment.
2. The local board of education may deliver the equipment to the nonpublic school.

b. Public school districts are not required to purchase equipment at a total cost to the district in excess of the amounts provided by State Aid.

c. Equipment to be purchased

The equipment purchased must meet the needs of the nonpublic school and be comparable to the type of equipment that would be purchased in a public school district. Equipment purchases must conform to the requirements of the "Public School Contracts Law."

**6. OWNERSHIP AND STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT**

a. All equipment will remain the property of the district board of education in which the nonpublic school is located and such ownership should be indicated on the equipment by labels.

b. The board of education may require that equipment be returned to the board of education at the end of the school year for storage or when the equipment is no longer required for the purposes of this program. The benefit of this program to nonpublic school students is intended to be cumulative. It is the expectation of the department that the technology purchased under this program will continue to benefit nonpublic school students as long as the program continues or as long as the nonpublic school participates in the program.

c. The board of education may enter into an agreement with the nonpublic school to store the equipment in the nonpublic school at the end of the school year. In such cases, the district may not pay storage charges of any kind to the nonpublic school.

d. Only a local school district may dispose of equipment purchased for this program. Equipment may only be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the "Public School Contracts Law."

**7. FEES AND CHARGES**

Equipment must be loaned without charge to a nonpublic school; no fees may be assessed in connection with the loaning of equipment to a nonpublic school. Expenditures for the purchase of equipment may include the cost of freight for transporting the equipment from the vendor to the delivery site.

**8. ACCOUNTING AT LOCAL DISTRICT LEVEL**

The district board of education in which the nonpublic school is located must maintain the nonpublic technology initiative program accounting on an encumbrance basis. A separate general account control "Nonpublic Technology Initiative" must be maintained on the nonpublic technology initiative program activities. The coding of all expenditures shall be recorded under "Special Revenue Funds-State Projects" account #20-510-XXX-XXX. The only exception is that the district board of education must maintain separate costs for each nonpublic school's technology program

activities. Expenditures for the purchase of equipment may include the cost of freight or transporting such equipment from the vendor to the delivery site. Collections for charges due to the loss, damage, or destruction of the equipment should be recorded as "Miscellaneous Revenue" and credited to the nonpublic school #20-510 account.

State aid received by the district board of education pursuant to this program must be recorded as "Special Revenue Funds-Revenue from State Sources; Restricted Entitlements" in account #20-3230-510.

## **9. PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT NONPUBLIC TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE**

Following the completion of fiscal operations, the district board of education in which the nonpublic school is located shall report to the State Department the total cost of the nonpublic technology provided. Such report might include the following items:

1. The amount approved for each nonpublic school.
2. The total State aid received.
3. The total of all encumbrances incurred for each nonpublic school.
4. Outstanding unliquidated encumbrances.
5. Nonpublic technology initiative funds on hand.

In the event that the district board of education has been paid funds in excess of the amount finally required for the program costs, the excess funds must be refunded to the State Department no later than December 1.

## **10. FISCAL AUDIT AND RETENTION OF RECORDS**

The nonpublic technology initiative program expenditure records will be audited locally. All records relating to the program must be retained for audit purposes. The audit will be done as a regular part of the district board of education's prescribed audit procedures. The board of education audit report will include a financial schedule or statement identifying receipts and expenditures applicable to the nonpublic school technology initiative program.