



NJCAPE Council for American Private Education

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

Testimony to the Assembly Budget Committee
March 22, 2021

Good Morning Assemblywoman Pintor Marin and members of the Assembly Budget Committee:

My name is George Corwell, and I am testifying as Treasurer for the New Jersey Council for American Private Education (NJCAPE).

I have two areas of concern for the nonpublic school community today. They are listed as subsections of this testimony.

Transportation

This year was a disastrous year for everyone, but for the nonpublic community, it was particularly difficult in the area of transportation. Transportation is the lifeblood of nonpublic schools, and to lose significant amounts of transportation affects the enrollment of nonpublic schools, even causing possible closures.

For your review, a chart is enclosed with my testimony noting, by county, totals for transportation versus aid-in-lieu payments. Many parents, even if they receive aid-in-lieu payments, are unable to send their child to a nonpublic school because they are working multiple jobs to pay tuition.

Transportation was directly affected by CDC Guidelines for spacing on buses. Buses were running at 50% capacity, and therefore, the amount of \$1,000 per child was insufficient for many bus company owners to bid on our routes. Additionally, because of this restriction, the additional public school vehicles that might have been used for nonpublic transportation were unable to be utilized on our routes because they were needed for the public school routes.

We are asking for an increase of \$150.00 per child in order to try to obtain rides for our children. As taxpayers, our parents deserve the right to have their child safely and efficiently transported to school. Therefore, we ask for your support in making the ceiling for nonpublic transportation \$1,150.00 for the 2021-2022 school year.

Technology

Since 2003, the New Jersey Budget has contained language which would provide a per-pupil amount for nonpublic school students in the area of technology. The state has concerns that the public and nonpublic school students would be on an equal footing when it comes to technology needed in a technologically savvy world of today.

Last year, Governor Murphy used federal money for a program called "Closing the Digital Divide." As such, he added just over \$6 million for technology for nonpublic school students. That amount came to \$43.00 per pupil. No state money was used for nonpublic school technology last year.

However, this year, that federal money was unavailable and \$5.4 million was placed in the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative. However, the per-pupil amount is capped in the Budget at \$36.00 per pupil – a loss of \$7.00 per pupil. We are asking for a modest increase to \$45.00 per pupil which would assist our children in maintaining some degree of parity with their public school counterparts.

We are most grateful for your support of both of these initiatives. Sometimes nonpublic school students get lost in the Budget process, but we appreciate your past support and look forward to your consideration of our requests for the 2021-2022 school year.

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COUNTY CODE	County Name	Nonpublic Transported A-6	Nonpublic AIL A-7	Nonpublic Transportation 20.1 to 30 D-1	Nonpublic Transportation >30 D-2	Nonpublic AIL 20.1 to 30 D-3	Nonpublic AIL >30 D-4
01	ATLANTIC	880.0	928.0	-	-	8.0	1.0
03	BERGEN	2,825.0	4,264.0	-	-	7.0	-
05	BURLINGTON	804.0	1,867.0	1.0	-	8.0	-
07	CAMDEN	407.0	2,549.0	-	-	10.0	2.0
09	CAPE MAY	204.0	207.0	-	-	1.0	-
11	CUMBERLAND	27.0	795.0	-	-	-	1.0
13	ESSEX	581.0	3,378.0	1.0	-	22.0	-
15	GLOUCESTER	515.0	1,893.0	-	-	-	-
17	HUDSON	15.0	757.0	-	-	-	-
19	HUNTERDON	-	612.0	-	1.0	-	-
21	MERCER	702.5	2,241.0	-	-	4.0	-
23	MIDDLESEX	1,013.0	3,719.0	7.0	-	17.0	1.0
25	MONMOUTH	2,976.0	3,162.0	12.0	-	2.0	-
27	MORRIS	1,386.0	2,618.0	4.0	-	7.0	2.0
29	OCEAN	25,040.0	3,720.0	10.0	1.0	14.0	4.0
31	PASSAIC	4.0	2,547.0	1.5	-	8.0	2.0
33	SALEM	-	170.0	-	-	-	-
35	SOMERSET	199.0	2,804.0	-	-	6.0	3.0
37	SUSSEX	840.0	258.0	-	1.0	-	-
39	UNION	345.0	2,119.0	-	-	-	1.0
41	WARREN	28.0	234.0	-	2.0	-	4.0
		38,791.5	40,842.0	36.5	5.0	114.0	21.0