

## Talking Points on Nonpublic School Technology

- Since 2003, the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative has been funded as Budget language in the annual State Budget. At the time, Acting Governor DeFrancesco counseled us that it would be smarter to keep it as Budget language rather than fight the efforts of our opponents in having a bill go through the Legislature.
- There is a parallel public school account which has been listed under different names in the Budget since it was established in 1997. Please keep in mind that public school accounts are fungible, meaning that the \$286,982,000 for public schools listed as “Security Aid” this year may be used for other purposes once the money is given to the district. Rest assured that districts receive ample money for technology.
- In the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative was eliminated because Governor Murphy used federal money targeted for COVID relief for all pupils to receive money for public and nonpublic school technology in an initiative named “Closing the Digital Divide.” We received a per-pupil amount under this federal money of \$43.00 per pupil; this year, that federal money was unavailable, and the State money for the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative returned to \$36.00 per pupil.
- Because of all the technology needed as a result of remote instruction for schools, we are asking for \$45.00 per pupil.