

FACT SHEET/TALKING POINTS ON NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

- Since 1998-1999 school year, nonpublic schools have been included in a Budget appropriation for technology aid – both equipment and the training of teachers in technology. Such a program was made available at the rate of \$40.00 per student to public school students as well.

- Public school students still receive technology aid under a Budget appropriation, even though public school officials requested a broader use of the funds (i.e. the potential for using the money for other purposes). Our per-pupil amount has been reduced to \$20.00 per pupil in the Governor’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget.

- Using these dollars for technology and training for teachers of technology is a wise investment for all citizens of New Jersey because it represents an opportunity for elementary and secondary students to receive state-of-the-art instruction on the skills necessary for success in the 21st Century.

- In the last years of Governor Corzine’s administration, the technology aid for nonpublic school students was completely eliminated from the Governor’s Budget. Governor Christie’s initial budgets followed the same path, while during the past year, the program was restored to a \$32.00 per-pupil amount. We are asking that the original amount of \$40.00 per pupil be restored in the Appropriations Act for the FY ’17 Budget. .

- All technology equipment received for use with nonpublic school students remains the property of the public school district and is labeled accordingly. It would be helpful to provide the Governor with specific instances in which this aid has been used in the past to help students in the local school.

The effort to increase the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative to its previous level of support can be made in various ways including class projects for letter writing and visits to appropriate legislators. Any trips to Trenton made between now and June by individual classes should include an opportunity to speak to legislators about the status of the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative.