

Talking Points on Nonpublic School Security Aid

- The Governor's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget completely eliminated the language authorizing the Nonpublic School Security Aid Program.
- In the FY 2016 Appropriations Act, the Legislature inserted Budget language (which has the force of law) appropriating \$5.7 million to the nonpublic school community for security provisions. Unfortunately, the language also included a second sentence which diverted \$2 million of the \$5.7 million to Higher Education for an institution of higher education most in need of security provisions. Thus we received only \$3.7 million (\$25.00 per student).
- While the nonpublic school community did receive \$25.00 per pupil, we believe that much more is necessary. The public school community has a "Security Aid" line item in the annual Governor's Fiscal Year 2017 of over \$199 million (an increase in \$4 million). Even though this account may be used for other purposes, if one were to divide the population of public school students into that amount, the result is \$140.00 per pupil for public school students. That amount is far above the \$25.00 per pupil allotted to the nonpublic school students.
- Nonpublic school students face the same risks as the public school students in regard to safety. In many cases, religious schools are more often targets for security threats than their public school counterparts.
- Surrounding states have provided increasing amounts of money for security programs in public and nonpublic schools in recent Budget cycles. There is no reason why New Jersey should not continue to provide (and increase) funding for nonpublic schools students' security.
- Please feel free to describe the effective use of this year's funding in your school community.