



New Jersey Catholic Conference
149 North Warren Street
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ACTION ALERT

ISSUE: Even though Governor Christie's Budget contains an additional \$750,000 for nonpublic school nursing services, the amount is still \$1,409,000 short of what was available in the Appropriations Act last year. That final figure of \$14,311,000 was created by the Legislature after much work by the nonpublic school community. Furthermore, Governor Christie's Budget eliminated the \$2,441,000 that was added to the Nonpublic School Technology, thus reducing the amount to \$3 million.

OUR POSITION: The New Jersey Catholic Conference and the New Jersey Network of Catholic School Families has continued to support increased funding in nonpublic school accounts. Our focus with the Legislature, particularly the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Budget Committee, will be to increase the funding for nonpublic school nursing services and technology aid at least to the amount in the Appropriations Act from last year.

ACTION:

1. Call, email or speak directly with the offices of the members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Budget Committee asking them to restore the level of funding in the nonpublic school nursing services and nonpublic school technology accounts at least to the level of funding in the Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations Act. See attached List.
2. Give special thanks to Assemblyman Gary Schaer who is chair of the Assembly Budget Committee for his work during last year's Budget process and his willingness to increase last year's amounts in nonpublic nursing services and nonpublic technology.
3. If your State Senator and/or your members of the General Assembly are not on either Committee, call, email, or visit those legislators and indicate the need for this appropriation to nonpublic school students and their parents. Remind them of the tax dollars being saved to public schools in their districts by the decision of nonpublic school parents to send their children to a nonpublic school.
4. Repeat steps 1 and 3 periodically between now and the third week in June in order to keep your request at the forefront of Budget considerations by State legislators.
5. Have students write letters to their respective legislators noting how the funding for nursing and nonpublic technology funding was used this year and how the loss will affect those programs next year.

**You may use the New Jersey Catholic Conference Voter Voice system
which can be accessed at:**

<https://votervoice.net/NJCC/Campaigns/39419/Respond>

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). That fund has continued to increase in a category called “Security Aid” and was recently increased by over \$5M in Governor Christie’s FY ’14 Budget and remains in the FY ’16 Budget (for a total of more than \$195M).

- 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 ’16 Budget. The cost of this additional increase would be approximately \$2M.

- 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 nonpublic school technology initiative to its level of support in FY ’15 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.

FACT SHEET/TALKING POINTS ON NONPUBLIC SCHOOL NURSING SERVICES

- Nursing is a health and safety consideration which should be available with state funding for all students in both public and nonpublic schools. The health of nonpublic schools students is no less important than the health of public school students.
- The Legislature placed sufficient money in Nursing Services last year to bring the amount to \$91.00 which would permit the increases in the CPI since the 1991-1992 school year. The Governor's Budget eliminated those increases and placed the per-pupil amount for nonpublic school nursing services at \$85.00.
- This amount is hardly enough to cover the cost of living increases which were included as a requirement in the original legislation. The money needs to be restored in order for the schools that were able to cover additional hours of nursing as a result of the increases last year will be able to retain those hours for their nurses.
- Nonpublic school students and their parents are held hostage with respect to the extent and nature of nursing services as a result of the cost stated by nursing services providers (e.g. districts or third party contractors including special services school districts, education services commissions, or other private providers).
- These increases are also necessary to permit additional duties of school nurses as a result of legislation passed since the inception of the program. Such duties include the training of emergency personnel for such contingencies as the administration of epinephrine for anaphylactic shock, validation of medical records for a variety of potential medical conditions not anticipated in the 1991 legislation, as well as dealing with requirements for planning for students with diabetes, asthma, and other serious illnesses. **THE LEGISLATURE CONTINUES TO PASS REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL NURSING SERVICES WITHOUT FUNDING POTENTIAL COSTS OF THESE SERVICES.**
- The cost of supplies needed by school nurses by schools continues to rise without any consideration of state funding for these increases.
- The cost of restoring these services would be minimal in the overall scheme of the State Budget.

The effort to increase nonpublic school nursing services to its level of support in FY '15 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 concerns of nursing services.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

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April 9, 2013

Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

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Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

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March 9, 2015