



New Jersey Catholic Conference  
149 North Warren Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608  
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# ACTION ALERT

**ISSUE:** The Governor's Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 contained a 6.8% funding cut in nonpublic school programs. Specifically, the cuts were made in security (the total elimination of the Nonpublic School Security Program), nursing services, and technology. The per-pupil amount for nonpublic school transportation remained frozen at \$884.00 – an amount that has been frozen for nine years.

**OUR POSITION:** The New Jersey Catholic Conference and the New Jersey Network of Catholic School Families strongly support the restoration of funding for nonpublic school students and their families. We join with other nonpublic school constituencies in our concern that there is a lack of parity between nonpublic school accounts and public school accounts in the Governor's Budget. We ask that between now and mid-June, all nonpublic school supporters reach out to members of the Legislature as noted in the Alert in order to remedy these inequities.

**ACTION:** Please enact the following steps in order to explain your position with regard to nonpublic school accounts:

1. Phone, email, or meet with the members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and Assembly Budget Committee with regard to the concerns that you have with the Budget. Please note that the Chairman of the Assembly Budget Committee, Assemblyman Gary Schaer, has been particularly sympathetic to the cause of nonpublic parents and students.
2. If your legislators are not one of the members of the Budget Committee, please phone, email, or meet with them and ask that they relay your concerns to their colleagues on the appropriate Budget Committee.
3. For those who have had transportation problems in the last several years, please explain in detail the stories of how nonpublic transportation was affected in your district to your respective Senator and members of the Assembly.
4. Use the appropriate Fact Sheets as needed to explain the issue to legislators, particularly if they require more background information on the topic.
5. Please remind any legislators that increases for nonpublic school funding does NOT take away funding for public school students.

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

**<https://www.votervoice.net/NJCC/Campaigns/45557/Respond>**

Please continue to make these contacts during the time period between now and the end of June. Legislators on the Budget Committee will submit Budget modification requests prior to the passage of the Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

For questions on the issues, please feel free to contact Frances Koukotas, 609-403-7148, Department of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Trenton.

Representing the Archdiocese of Newark, Diocese of Camden, Diocese of Metuchen,  
Diocese of Paterson, Diocese of Trenton, Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic and  
Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese