

**2017-18 New Jersey State Budget
Talking Points on Nonpublic School Transportation**

- Nonpublic school transportation must currently be provided at \$884.00 per student or less. The ceiling has not been raised since the 2007-2008 school year and continues at that figure under the Governor’s proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2018.
- Most nonpublic school transportation is provided by private bus companies. Many of the companies either do not bid on a route at \$884.00 or less or have already indicated that they can only bid at a higher rate.
- Without transportation, parents are often unable to get their children to school, even though an aid-in-lieu amount is paid to the parent for \$884.00. Many of these parents work two and three jobs in order to cover the nonpublic school tuition. When a bus route is cancelled because of the bid ceiling, many nonpublic school students are forced to transfer to a public school at greater taxpayer expense. **It is important to note that no public school student is ever denied transportation as a result of the cost.**
- It would be possible to shift money from another Budget account that is over-funded and transfer it to the cost of increasing nonpublic school transportation. Districts and private bus company operators indicate that the reason for their inability to run a route at or below the maximum per-pupil amount is that, in spite of reductions in fuel costs in recent years, drivers’ salaries and insurance premiums have increased.

The effort to increase the ceiling for nonpublic school transportation 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 nonpublic school transportation.

**2017-18 New Jersey State Budget
Talking Points on Cuts in Nursing, Technology, and Security**

Governor Christie's Budget eliminated \$9 million in nonpublic school aid in the areas of nursing, technology, and security, in effect negating the increases provided by the Legislature in the Appropriations Act of July 2016 for the 2016-2017 school year.

- Nursing is essential to nonpublic schools because the Legislature keeps adding more requirements for the schools, which are the responsibility of the school nurse.
- It is important to tell legislators the story of how needed the nurse is in your own school and how these cuts will affect that service.
- The Nonpublic School Technology program has been funded in a sporadic fashion since the 1998-1999 Budget cycle.
- The effects of the cuts in the technology program should be described to legislators when asking at least for return to the funding levels of this school year.
- The Nonpublic School Security Program, funded at \$50.00 per pupil in June 2016, was completely eliminated in the Governor's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget.
- Nonpublic school pupils deserve the same security provisions as their public school counterparts. Security provisions have already been put in place by the nonpublic schools with the previous year's funding. Please describe in detail these uses to the legislators when arguing the case for restoring the funding and note what security provisions are still lacking.

The effort to increase Nursing Services funding, the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative, and the Nonpublic School Security Program to their 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 Nursing Services, the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative, and the Nonpublic School Security Program.