



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Governor

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Lt. Governor

LAMONT O. REPOLLET, ED.D.
Commissioner

December 6, 2019

Mr. Sean Cranston, Acting Superintendent
Brick Township School District
101 Hendrickson Avenue
Brick, NJ 08724

Dear Mr. Cranston:

Pursuant to language included in P.L. 2019, c. 150, the New Jersey Department of Education (the Department) has conducted a needs assessment based on the Brick Township School District's (the district) application for 2019-2020 Emergency Aid in the amount of \$2,741,894. The Department analyzed the application submitted by the district, along with fiscal information necessary for a thorough review including, but not limited to, the district's submissions in the NJDOE's Budget Statement Software (Budget System), Audit Summary (Audsum), and the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFR).

On September 10, 2019, the Department sent a letter detailing missing or incomplete information in the district's application submission. Upon review of the additional information submitted as a result of that letter, the Department noted that items are still incomplete or missing from the application. Notwithstanding, the Department reviewed the application on its merit based on the submitted items.

The district application outlines the following reasons to support the request for Emergency Aid:

1. 2019-20 loss in state-aid

The Department finds:

1. The district adopted a balanced 2019-2020 original budget certified for taxes based on the March 7, 2019 state aid notice, and state aid to the district was not altered by the FY20 Appropriations Act, P.L. 2019, c. 150.

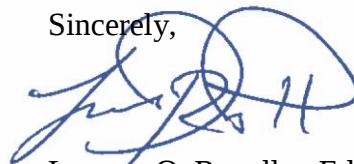
2. The district's FY18 CAFR shows that student enrollments have decreased by approximately 16% over the ten-year period beginning with 2009. Per pupil costs have increased by 36% over that same time. (FY18 CAFR)
3. The district's July 16, 2019 Extraordinary Aid (Exaid) notice indicates the district received approximately \$1,373,308 of extraordinary aid for 2018-2019 and budget system indicates the district appropriated \$900,000. The additional \$473,308 of general fund revenue for the year ended June 30, 2019 may provide additional surplus that could be used to fund 2019-2020 general fund appropriations.
4. The district has a 4-year history of audited excess surplus from 2013-14 to 2017-18, ranging from approximately \$295,324 to \$3,298,645 each year, indicating the 2019-2020 appropriations may also be overstated. (Source: District AudSum submission)
5. The June 2019 board secretary's report submitted by the district reflects the district transferred \$2,181,827 of unassigned general fund surplus into capital reserve in June 30, 2019. These balances were available for the district to use in 2019-20 or 2020-21. However, the district set them aside into reserves. (Source: District Application).

Based upon a thorough needs assessment, including review of the district's application and the elements outlined above, the Department determined the district has sufficient resources to fund appropriations in the 2019-2020 school year. Accordingly, the application is denied.

This decision shall not preclude your district from requesting to supplement its application for emergency aid to the Commissioner due to a change in circumstances, discovery of additional information, or factors outside of those outlined in this letter.

The county office is available to assist with the implementation of a plan to address the trends and changes to the district profile described in this letter, as well as any other plan the district may want to consider.

Sincerely,



Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D.
Commissioner

c: Kellie LeDet
Kevin Dehmer
AbdulSaleem Hasan
Glenn Forney
Allen Dupree
Kevin Ahearn
Charles Muller