



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

ANGELICA ALLEN-McMILLAN, Ed.D.
Acting Commissioner

December 22, 2022

Mr. Michael Citta, Superintendent
Toms River Regional School District
1144 Hooper Avenue
Toms River, NJ 08753

Dear Mr. Citta:

Pursuant to language included in the FY2023 Appropriations Act, the New Jersey Department of Education (the Department) has conducted a review based on the Toms River Regional School District's (the district) application for 2022-2023 Stabilization Aid in the amount of \$5,236,128. 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 Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFR).

Districts that are eligible for 2022-23 Stabilization Aid are those districts experiencing either (1) a reduction in State aid or (2) otherwise confront a structural budgetary imbalance. Applicant districts are also required to provide a written plan to explain how the district intends to fund operations in future years in which the district does not receive similar supplemental State aid. Toms River Regional School District experienced a 2022-23 reduction in state aid of \$4,324,313. The plan submitted by the district for funding future operations included generating tax revenue by utilizing the two percent cap each year, utilization of maintenance reserve funds to cover required maintenance expenses, generating additional revenue through corporate sponsorships and rental of district facilities, seeking competitive grants, and looking for efficiencies and cost savings measures in all areas.

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

Funding for teachers in future years	\$5,236,128
Total Request	<u>\$5,236,128</u>

Due to the volume of applications for 2022-23 stabilization aid, and after a rigorous review of all requests, the Department prioritized approvals by expense categories. District requests for buses, bus drivers, bus aides, and transportation contracted services were prioritized for funding due to known increases in statewide transportation costs after budget preparation. Textbooks

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that were not part of a prior year request were prioritized for funding. One-time costs for equipment and supplies were prioritized. One-time costs for security equipment or capital items related to security were prioritized. Capital requests for oil tank expenses and ADA-related upgrades were prioritized. The request from your district did not contain items in these categories, therefore the request is denied.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D." in a cursive script.

Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D.
Acting Commissioner

C: Scott Henry
Allen Dupree
Charles Muller