

New Jersey Catholic Conference

149 North Warren Street · Trenton, New Jersey 08608

ACTION ALERT

NONPUBLIC SCHOOL ISSUES IN EDUCATION BUDGET

ISSUE: Governor Corzine's proposed education budget contains a cut of \$11M in nonpublic school accounts in addition to a reduction in transportation services. Specifically, the budget eliminates the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative which has been in place since the 1998-1999 school year. Furthermore, the budget eliminates the 30 mile extended distance for nonpublic school transportation for nonpublic school students living in the counties of Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Warren, and Sussex which has been in place for the same time period.

OUR

POSITION: The New Jersey Catholic Conference and the New Jersey Network of Catholic School Families supports the restoration of the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative and the extended mileage for nonpublic school students in the aforementioned six counties. A fact sheet explaining talking points on our position is enclosed with this Alert. Governor Corzine's budget contains a \$304M increase for public school students, while nonpublic school students are suffering a 10.5% decrease in funding. We believe that this inequity should be addressed by the legislature in amendments made to the budget in June.

ACTION: All nonpublic school families and supporters are asked to take the following action steps:

- 1. Call, write, or email members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Budget Committee and ask them to restore the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative and the 30 mile extended language in the six counties in the final version of the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. A list of these legislators is enclosed.**
- 2. If your own Senator and members of the Assembly are not represented on either of these two committees, call, write or email you respective legislators and ask them to speak with their colleagues on either Budget Committee to make this request.**
- 3. For schools located in the districts represented by the members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee or the Assembly Budget Committee, we ask that principals and parent representatives schedule an appointment with these legislators as soon as possible in order to express the effect that these cuts would have on your school population. Everyone will suffer from the loss of the \$40 per pupil allocation in the Nonpublic Technology Initiative, while schools enrolling students from the aforementioned six counties will have difficulties in finding a means of transportation for these students to attend the school.**

WE ASK THAT YOU REPEAT THIS ACTION BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE 15 SO THAT THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE LOST IN THE MIDST OF OTHER BUDGET REQUESTS. FOR THESE PROGRAMS TO BE RESTORED, IT IS NECESSARY FOR MEMBERS OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE TO FILE BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO INCLUDE THEM IN THE FINAL VERSION OF THE LEGISLATION PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES OF THE LEGISLATURE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE PARTICIPATION.