



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Commissioner

July 14, 2017

TO: Chief School Administrators
School Business Administrators

FROM: Commissioner Kimberley Harrington

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2018 State Budget Notification

On Tuesday, July 4, Governor Christie signed the Fiscal Year 2018 state budget, which includes revised state aid for school districts. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has prepared revised state aid notices that are available today in each school district's "School Aid" folder in the [Homeroom](#) webpage. The NJDOE has posted on its website a [guidance document](#) to assist districts with implementing budget adjustments consistent with the revised state aid figures.

Districts that receive a revised state aid notice indicating an increase to state aid should note that NJDOE approval pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3(d)* for a district board of education to appropriate unbudgeted or under-budgeted state aid is herein granted. All districts are encouraged to review their revised state aid notices and the NJDOE's guidance for detailed information on implementing 2017-18 budget adjustments.

For those districts that receive a revised state aid notice indicating a decrease to state aid, NJDOE approval pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1* and *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3 (b) and (c)* to transfer/increase the amount of unassigned general fund surplus budgeted in the original budget certified for taxes to provide the resources necessary to address the emergent condition of needing to offset the reduction to 2017-18 state aid to maintain a thorough and efficient (T&E) education is herein granted through August 1, 2017. Any district that is set to receive less state aid in the revised notice must follow the instructions in the aforementioned guidance document, including the required submissions to the county office.

Pursuant to language included in the FY 2018 Appropriations Act, districts that received notification of a reduction in general fund state aid, and are able to demonstrate fiscal distress, may apply for additional state assistance. Districts that are interested can contact the NJDOE for information.

This year's budget includes funding for Preschool Education Expansion Aid, a new program to expand access to full-day preschool for three- and four-year-old children. Those districts currently operating a preschool program with partial state support will be eligible to apply for these funds to expand access to additional students.

As Preschool Education Expansion Aid is intended for those districts that can demonstrate a readiness for expansion, any district interested in expanding their program should begin assessing the availability of classrooms and other considerations in anticipation of the forthcoming formal application. Additional guidance will be available soon for these districts.

Finally, those districts with eligible adult education students will find notification of their allocation of Adult Education and Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Aid in their School Aid folder in the Homeroom webpage.

If you have any questions about your state aid notification, please email staid@doe.state.nj.us, or if you need additional guidance regarding how to account for these changes, please email budget@doe.state.nj.us.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

JW/KE/bh

c: Members, State Board of Education
Senior Staff
Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
Executive County Business Officials
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group