



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Date: July 3, 2025

Statement on Toms River Regional School District Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

Today, the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) adopted the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 school district budget for the Toms River Regional School District Board of Education ("Board" or "district"). The district's budget, as adopted by the Department, remains unchanged from the spending plan the district previously submitted to, and was approved by, its County Office of Education. The Department's action was compelled by the Board's failure to adopt its final budget by the start of the fiscal year, a marked violation of several statutory and regulatory requirements.

Adopting a district budget requires innumerable complex, and sometimes emotional, decisions regarding the allocation of resources to ensure that all students receive the educational services they deserve. While the Department acknowledges the difficulty inherent in school district budgeting decisions, the State and the public hold their school district leaders to the highest standards and expect them to rise to this challenge. This is not only an expectation but is required under State law. The weight of these decisions only affirms – not excuses – the importance of every district leader to deliver upon this most fundamental obligation. On this vital measure, the Board has fallen short, despite having been afforded extended opportunities to deliberate, revise, and adopt a budget acceptable to the Board. Now, with summer programs and other student services set to begin next week, the Department must step in and act accordingly.

While it is exceedingly rare for the Department to take such action, Fiscal Year 2025-2026 marks the second consecutive school district budget the Department has been forced to adopt for the Board. This troubling pattern indicates deeper and systemic concerns about the ability of the Board and district administrators to meet their most basic responsibilities. As such, the Department has no choice but to take additional steps to safeguard district students and the school community's public trust from further risk.



[Facebook](#)



[X](#)



[Instagram](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



[YouTube](#)