



For Immediate Release

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Sherrill Administration Announces Statewide School Funding Outreach Effort to Strengthen Opportunity for New Jersey Students

NJDOE-Led Initiative Begins with Online Public Learning Series, Stakeholder Sessions, and Creation of Statewide Steering Committee

Trenton, NJ – The Sherrill Administration today announced the launch of a statewide stakeholder-driven effort to overhaul New Jersey’s school funding system and advance Governor Mikie Sherrill’s commitment to ensuring that every student, regardless of ZIP code, has access to an excellent education and the opportunities that come with it.

The Administration has heard clearly from educators, families, and communities across New Jersey that the current school funding system is not meeting the needs of all students. While New Jersey has made record investments in public education, more work is needed to ensure students and taxpayers receive the strongest return on those investments as districts face rising costs and changing needs. Led by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), this effort will bring together families, educators, students, school leaders, legislators, advocates, community partners, and taxpayers to build a shared understanding of how school funding works today and to identify ways to make the system more predictable, transparent, accountable, fair, and responsive to student needs.

“Ensuring every student has access to a world-class education is our top priority. This effort is about listening to communities, understanding what students and schools need to succeed, and making sure our school funding system delivers for our kids,” **said Governor Sherrill**. “Education spending is the single largest investment our state makes year to year, and we have a responsibility to ensure we are getting the best return on every dollar spent. By reforming our funding system, we can ensure resources are directed where they have the greatest impact, creating pathways to success for students, strengthening communities, and supporting long-term economic growth.”

“Our goal is simple: make sure every student has access to the opportunities, resources, and support they need to succeed,” **said Dr. Lily Laux, Commissioner of Education**. “New Jersey has long been a leader in creating and implementing a student-centered funding formula that considers student need, enrollment, and local wealth when determining state aid for school districts. At the same time, we have heard from communities across the state that they want us to take a fresh look at our overall funding system, including the formula itself. As promised, we are beginning this outreach effort now, with additional opportunities for engagement to be announced in September.”

The engagement process will focus on statewide conversations about what it takes to provide a high-quality education for every student; reduce cost pressures while providing students pathways to success; strengthen accountability for student outcomes and taxpayer dollars; improve funding stability and predictability for school districts; reform the formula to address today’s student needs; and make school funding easier for the public to understand.

The NJDOE will collaborate with the Hunt Institute, a national nonpartisan education policy organization, to support a steering committee that will convene this fall to take a deeper look at New Jersey’s school funding formula, as well as research, data, and national best practices around school funding. Led by Commissioner Laux, the steering committee will help build shared understanding, review statewide strengths and gaps, consider guiding principles and project goals, and identify possible short- and long-term improvements. Representing a robust cross-section of the education landscape, the list of invited organizations, including representatives of the New Jersey Legislature, can be found [here](#).

Today, the NJDOE is launching the first installment of a School Finance Learning Series to explain New Jersey’s school funding system in plain language. Available [online](#), the series will be designed for anyone interested in understanding how school finance works, where funding comes from, how aid is

calculated, and the challenges the state must consider when looking at overhauling the system. The NJDOE is releasing the first installment in the series, which explains New Jersey’s school funding formula, its history, and key components. Additional videos and shorter summaries for broader audiences will be released in the coming weeks.

The NJDOE will provide ongoing public updates through a webpage, learning series recordings, reports, and additional ways for stakeholders to stay engaged. Starting today, anyone who is interested in learning more about this project through periodic updates and newsletters can [sign up online](#).

Feedback from the 2026 outreach will inform near-term recommendations to the New Jersey Legislature, as well as a roadmap for continued stakeholder engagement and deeper reform discussions into 2027. The NJDOE is committed to working closely with legislators and stakeholders throughout this year and beyond, engaging in an ongoing and collaborative process to identify improvements that better support students, families, and communities.

More information about the school funding overhaul effort, including upcoming learning sessions and engagement activities, will be available on the [NJDOE’s website](#).

