



New Jersey School Funding Modernization Project

Why This Matters

Statewide **\$40 billion is spent annually on public education**. School funding represents more than **one-quarter of the state budget**. At the same time, costs continue to rise, student needs are changing, and educational opportunities remain uneven across communities. The State is launching a comprehensive effort to examine how school funding can better support every student.

OUR GOAL

Build a modern, stable, student-centered school funding system that helps ensure every student receives a world-class education, regardless of ZIP code.

The work will begin with the student experience:



STUDENT NEEDS

EDUCATIONAL
SYSTEM

FUNDING
SYSTEM

We will first define what students need, then identify the systems required to deliver those opportunities, and finally determine how funding should support them.

What Will Not Change

The review starts with several core commitments:

- ➔ New Jersey's constitutional obligation to provide a "thorough and efficient" education
- ➔ A student-centered funding approach
- ➔ An equitable approach that accounts for local wealth
- ➔ A continued commitment to investing in public education

What We Are Exploring

The project will examine opportunities to improve:



Transparency



Accountability



Stability and
predictability



Cost control



Modernization
of the funding
formula



Local share
calculations

How the Work Will Happen

New Jersey is pursuing both **immediate action** and **long-term modernization**.

While this review is underway, NJDOE is advancing efforts to increase transparency, strengthen fiscal oversight, improve access to school finance information, and address major cost drivers.

At the same time, the State is conducting an open, statewide engagement process that includes learning opportunities, stakeholder conversations, legislative engagement, and public input. Together, these efforts will help build a shared understanding of the challenges facing school funding today and inform recommendations for a more transparent, predictable, sustainable, and student-centered funding system.

This **open, statewide engagement process** involves:

- ➔ An online School Finance Learning Series
- ➔ Regional stakeholder roundtables and public forums
- ➔ Legislative briefings and discussions
- ➔ A Steering Committee of key stakeholders
- ➔ Transparency dashboard development

The goal is to build shared understanding before proposing solutions. Reform is more successful when stakeholders understand the challenges, trade-offs, and opportunities involved. Throughout the process, the central question should remain:

What do New Jersey students need to thrive, what system will deliver it, and how should the State fund that system responsibly and fairly?



Get Involved

New Jersey families, educators, students, taxpayers, community leaders, and elected officials are encouraged to participate.

Learn more, access resources, and sign up for project updates at:

nj.gov/education/schoolfinance/schoolfunding