

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5399

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 2023

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ALEX SAUICKIE**

**District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Clifton**

**SYNOPSIS**

Makes supplemental appropriation of \$100 million for Stabilization Aid and \$20 million for Education Rescue Grant Program in the 2023-2024 school year.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/20/2023)**

1 A SUPPLEMENT to the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year  
2 ending June 30, 2024, P.L.2023, c. .

3  
4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and the General Assembly of the  
5 State of New Jersey:

6  
7 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2023, c. ,  
8 the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
9 2024, there is appropriated from the Property Tax Relief Fund the  
10 following amount for the purpose specified:

11  
12 **34 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
13 *30 Educational, Cultural, and Intellectual Development*  
14 *31 Direct Educational Services and Assistance*

15  
16 **STATE AID**  
17 03-5120 Miscellaneous Grants-In-Aid ..... \$100,000,000  
18 Total State Aid appropriation,  
19 Direct Educational Services and Assistance **\$100,000,000**  
20 *State Aid:*  
21 03 Stabilization Aid (PTRF).....(\$100,000,000)

22  
23 Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the  
24 contrary, the Commissioner of Education shall award  
25 Stabilization Aid grants no later than six weeks following the last  
26 day in which school districts may apply for grants.

27  
28 2. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2023, c. ,  
29 the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
30 2024, there is appropriated from the General Fund the following  
31 amount for the purpose specified:

32  
33 **34 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
34 *30 Educational, Cultural, and Intellectual Development*  
35 *31 Direct Educational Services and Assistance*

36  
37 **STATE AID**  
38 03-5120 Miscellaneous Grants-In-Aid ..... \$20,000,000  
39 Total State Aid appropriation,  
40 Direct Educational Services and Assistance **\$20,000,000**  
41 *State Aid:*  
42 03 Education Rescue Grant Program .....(\$20,000,000)

43  
44 The amount hereinabove appropriated for the Education Rescue  
45 Grant Program shall be provided to support the costs of rehiring  
46 or retaining a teaching staff member, or if it is not possible to  
47 rehire the teaching staff member, the costs of hiring a similarly

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1     qualified teaching staff member. The proceeds of each grant shall  
2     be dedicated to the salaries, not including fringe benefits or other  
3     non-monetary compensation, payable to the teaching staff  
4     members by the recipient school district. The Commissioner of  
5     Education shall award Education Rescue Grant Program grants  
6     no later than six weeks following the last day in which school  
7     districts may apply for grants.

8  
9     3. This act shall take effect immediately.

10  
11  
12                     STATEMENT

13  
14     This bill provides a supplemental appropriation of \$100 million  
15     for Stabilization Aid and \$20 million for Education Rescue Grants  
16     in the 2023-2024 school year.

17     Stabilization aid provides supplemental support to school  
18     districts experiencing a reduction in State aid or other budgetary  
19     imbalance. In applying for stabilization aid, a district is required to  
20     submit a written plan detailing how it intends to fund operations in  
21     subsequent years without the need for supplemental State aid. The  
22     bill provides that the Commissioner of Education is required to  
23     award stabilization aid no later than six weeks following the last  
24     day in which school districts may apply for grants.

25     The Education Rescue Grant Program allocates funds to support  
26     the costs of rehiring or retaining teaching staff members, or the  
27     costs of hiring similarly qualified teaching staff members. The bill  
28     provides that the Commissioner of Education is required to award  
29     Education Rescue Grants no later than six weeks following the last  
30     day in which school districts may apply for grants.

31     The sponsor believes that the State school funding law as revised  
32     under P.L.2018, c.67 (commonly referred to as “S2”) is faulty and,  
33     if its implementation continues, will reduce the educational and  
34     extracurricular opportunities available to students and cause  
35     potentially irreversible damage to many school districts across the  
36     State. It is the sponsor’s intent to mitigate, or completely avoid,  
37     those effects in the next school year via this bill.