

**SENATE, No. 3904**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**221st LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 5, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator OWEN HENRY**

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

**Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL**

**District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Space, Tiver and Amato**

**SYNOPSIS**

“S2 Appropriations Rescue Act”; appropriates \$106.5 million to provide Emergency Supplemental Aid to certain school districts, including districts negatively impacted by effects of P.L.2018, c.67.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/30/2025)**

1 AN ACT concerning State school aid and making an appropriation.

2

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

5

6 1. a. There is appropriated from the Property Tax Relief Fund to  
7 the Department of Education the sum of \$106,500,000 to provide  
8 Emergency Supplemental Aid to school districts meeting the  
9 eligibility criteria of subsection b. of this section, in amounts  
10 determined pursuant to the calculation in subsection c. of this  
11 section.

12 b. A school district shall be eligible for Emergency  
13 Supplemental Aid pursuant to this section if the district has been  
14 allocated a total amount of State school aid in the 2024-2025 school  
15 year that is:

16 (1) less than the district's adequacy budget calculated pursuant  
17 to section 9 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-51); and

18 (2) less than or equal to \$19,000 per resident pupil, which shall  
19 be calculated as the result of dividing the total amount of State  
20 school aid in the 2024-2025 school year by the number of pupils  
21 counted for the purposes of determining resident enrollment, as that  
22 term is defined pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2007 c.260 (C.18A:7F-  
23 45), on the last school day prior to October 16, 2023; and

24 (3) either:

25 (a) less than or equal to the total amount of State school aid  
26 allocated to the district in the 2023-2024 school year; or

27 (b) greater than the total amount of State school aid allocated to  
28 the district in the 2023-2024 school year by up to \$200,000.

29 c. The amount of Emergency Supplemental Aid provided to an  
30 eligible school district pursuant to this section shall be determined  
31 by multiplying \$250 by the number of pupils counted for the  
32 purposes of determining resident enrollment, as that term is defined  
33 pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2007 c.260 (C.18A:7F-45), on the last  
34 school day prior to October 16, 2023.

35 d. As used in this section, "State school aid" means:

36 (1) in the 2024-2025 school year, the sum of the amount of  
37 Stabilized School Budget Aid allocated to a school district pursuant  
38 to section 1 of P.L.2024, c.13 and the following categories of State  
39 school aid, as allocated to a school district pursuant to the  
40 provisions of P.L.2024, c.22, the annual appropriations act for the  
41 fiscal year ending June 30, 2025: equalization aid, special education  
42 categorical aid, security categorical aid, transportation aid,  
43 adjustment aid, vocational expansion stabilization aid, educational  
44 adequacy aid, school choice aid, and military impact aid; and

45 (2) in the 2023-2024 school year, the sum of the following  
46 categories of State school aid, as allocated to a school district  
47 pursuant to the provisions of P.L.2023, c.74, the annual  
48 appropriations act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

1 equalization aid, special education categorical aid, security  
2 categorical aid, transportation aid, adjustment aid, vocational  
3 expansion stabilization aid, educational adequacy aid, school choice  
4 aid, and military impact aid.

5  
6 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

7  
8  
9 STATEMENT

10  
11 This bill provides a supplemental appropriation of \$106.5 million  
12 from the Property Tax Relief Fund to the Department of Education  
13 to provide “Emergency Supplemental Aid” to certain school  
14 districts. The aid is to be distributed to school districts that have  
15 been allocated a total amount of State school aid in the 2024-2025  
16 school year that is:

- 17 • less than the district’s adequacy budget, which under current  
18 law represents the portion of the costs that a school district is  
19 expected to incur to provide a thorough and efficient  
20 education; and  
21 • less than or equal to \$19,000 per resident pupil; and  
22 • either: less than or equal to the total amount of State school  
23 aid allocated to the district in the 2023-2024 school year; or  
24 greater than the total amount of State school aid allocated to  
25 the district in the 2023-2024 school year by up to \$200,000.

26 The amount of Emergency Supplemental Aid provided to an  
27 eligible district pursuant to the bill is to be determined by  
28 multiplying \$250 by the number of resident pupils in the district.

29 School districts from all parts of the State have experienced  
30 negative budgetary effects over the seven years following the  
31 enactment of P.L.2018, c.67, commonly referred to as “S2.” The  
32 severity of these budgetary reductions have forced districts to lay  
33 off hundreds of teachers and staff, adopt half-day schedules,  
34 eliminate sports and clubs, reduce academic programming such as  
35 Advanced Placement classes, eliminate busing, and sell land and  
36 close schools just to balance their budgets. This educational  
37 funding crisis has affected hundreds of school districts representing  
38 an array of socioeconomic groups, from urban districts such as the  
39 City of East Orange, Jersey City, and Passaic City, to suburban  
40 districts such as Hillsborough Township, Freehold Regional School  
41 District, Old Bridge Township, Jackson Township, Toms River  
42 Regional School District, Brick Township, and Evesham Township,  
43 and extending to rural districts, such as Chesterfield Township,  
44 Lenape Regional School District, Estell Manor City, and Hardyston  
45 Township. This bill provides emergency restoration aid to help  
46 stabilize the budgets of these school districts, as well as 290 other  
47 districts, for the purpose of providing these children with a quality  
48 education.