



# PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

TONY TRONGONE  
Superintendent

February 28, 2020

Governor Phil Murphy  
Office of Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Governor Murphy,

Pemberton Township Schools has been a cooperative and understanding partner in regard to the fair funding of schools and the implementation of New Jersey Senate Bill 2 (S2).

In the past 2 years, the Pemberton Township Board of Education and administration has developed a plan to close a more than \$9 million deficit in its local fair share, while reducing our over adequacy amount. At one time we were \$27 million above adequacy, but have reduced that amount to \$10 million above adequacy. We have been making efficiencies while continuing to grow our academic, social/emotional and extra-curricular programs.

As stated, Pemberton Township Schools is striving to close the gap in our local fair share, which should place the district in municipal overburden. Pemberton is an SDA district and according to the law: *An SDA district that is located in a municipality in which the equalized total tax rate is greater than the Statewide average equalized total tax rate for the most recent available calendar year and is spending above adequacy as calculated pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2018, c.67 (C.18A:7F-70) shall be subject to a reduction not to exceed the amount by which the district is spending above adequacy multiplied by the corresponding percentage included in subsection b. of this section.*

We feel that the 2018 state average tax rate used to calculate municipal overburden in the FY21 State Aid notice does not properly reflect the spirit of S2, which was designed to fiscally evaluate a school district annually. The state has witnessed the negative impact that **static school aid calculations** have had on two-thirds of school districts in New Jersey, leading to the impetus of S2 and fair funding.



# PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

**TONY TRONGONE**  
Superintendent

**We respectfully request that the Pemberton Township Schools State Aid calculations for FY21 be based on the 2019 state average tax rate.**

Thank you for your consideration in this matter, and we look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Tony Trongone  
Superintendent – Pemberton Twp Schools

CC: Michael Vrancik  
Mark Magyar