

# Governmental Relations Webinar: FY24 Appropriations Act & Legislative Update

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July 19, 2023

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# Agenda

- **FY24 Appropriations Act: Education Highlights**
  - K-12 Formula Aid
  - Preschool Aid
  - Teacher Recruitment and Retention
  - Workforce Diversity Programs
  - Academic Programs
  - Mental Health and Culture/Climate Programs
  - School Facilities and Operations
- **Hot Topics**
- **Recently Signed Bills**
- **Bills on the Governor's Desk**
- **Bills Near the Governor's Desk**
- **Looking Ahead**

For more info: [NJ Legislature Website](https://www.njlegislature.gov/)

# FY24 Appropriations Act: Education Highlights

- **K-12 Formula Aid:**

- \$832 million increase. Full scheduled phase-in to full funding per S2 (year 6 of 7)
- Supplemental Stabilization Aid ([P.L.2023, c.32](#)): Restores 66% of initially-proposed aid cuts
- \$20 million for Stabilization Aid

- **Preschool Aid:** \$40 million for new districts and for other expansion needs, such as workforce preparation

- Added by Legislature: Additional language requiring new PEA districts to “demonstrate...due diligence” in establishing community partnerships

# FY24 Appropriations Act: Education Highlights

- **Teacher Recruitment and Retention:** \$20 million in new programs
  - \$10M for stipends for student teachers
    - \$3,000 for a student in an EPP that agrees to a full year of service as a student teacher
  - \$5M to waive teacher certification fees for one year
  - \$2M for Culture and Climate Innovation Grants
    - Competitive grant to “develop innovations to provide mental health supports for staff and students, support...practices that improve morale...improvement of safety and climate of buildings...invest in facilities improvements to improve general working conditions”
  - \$1M for paraprofessional training
  - \$1M for a “Public Media Campaign” re. positive messaging for teaching as a life-long career
  - \$800K for a teacher apprenticeship program
  - \$500K to expand the Teacher Leader Network

# FY24 Appropriations Act: Education Highlights

- **Workforce Diversity Programs:**
  - High Poverty School District Minority Teacher Recruitment Program (\$750k)
  - Men of Color Hope Achievers Program (“K-12 Education Workforce Diversity Programs” line item) (\$550k)
  - TFA NJ – New Teacher Recruitment (\$300k)
  - Heldrich Center for Workforce Development – Teacher Workforce Reporting (implementing P.L.2021, c.394 workforce data collection requirements)

# FY24 Appropriations Act: Education Highlights

## ● Academic Programs

- Over \$30 million in funds for Tutoring and Literacy PD:
  - \$27 million in federal funds for the NJDOE's High Impact Tutoring program
  - \$2 million Reading Acceleration Professional Integrated Development (RAPID) program
  - \$3 million in federal funds for RAPID-Plus
- \$420 million for Extraordinary Special Education Aid (Same as FY23)
- \$5 million for Climate Change Education Grants to Schools
- \$2 million for K-12 Computer Science Education Initiative
- \$1 million for the expansion of AP and IB courses
- \$500K for Innovation Dual Enrollment Pilot program
- Added by Legislature:
  - \$35m in federal ARP SFRF funds for competitive grants to support learning acceleration and increasing instructional time
  - \$300k for an AP African American Studies Course Expansion Grant

# FY24 Appropriations Act: Education Highlights

- **Mental Health And Culture/Climate Programs**
  - Maintains funding for current SBYSP
  - \$43 million to launch NJ Statewide Student Support Services
  - \$3 million for a community schools pilot program
  - Maintains funding for School-Based Mental Health Training Grant Program
  - \$500k to continue Restorative Justice in Education Program
  - Added by Legislature: \$1 million for a Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant (per P.L.2021, c.237)

# FY24 Appropriations Act: Education Highlights

- **School Facilities and Operations:**

- \$75 million for capital maintenance and emergent needs in traditional districts (SDA and RODs)
- \$20 million for capital maintenance and emergent needs in charter schools
  - Added by Legislature: Gov initially proposed \$5m for this program; legislature increased it to \$20m
- Intend to draw down \$250 million for SDA projects
- \$20.6 million for Working Class Families Anti-Hunger Act
- School District Regionalization Studies:
  - Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP): \$7.5 million; DCA expects to award an additional 30 grants
  - School Regionalization Efficiency Program (SREP): \$5 million
- Added by Legislature: \$250k for a School Bus Safety Study (per P.L.2019, c.24)



# FY24 Budget Proposal: PK-12 Highlights

## More Budget Info:

- Fiscal year 2024 Appropriations Act: [Full Text](#).
- [Score Sheet](#): summary of line-item amount changes compared to the fiscal year 2024 budget the governor [proposed](#) in February.
- [Language Changes](#): summary of language provision changes compared to the governor's proposed fiscal year 2024 budget.
- Governor's [press release](#) announcing his signing of the budget.
- Governor's line item veto [statement](#) and [message](#).

# Hot Topics

## School Elections

- A5175: Changes certain General Election deadlines (On Gov's Desk)
  - Eliminates December special election date and moves the September special election date from the last Tuesday to the third Tuesday
  - The original bill would have also moved up the deadline for April BOEs to certify second questions with the county clerk from 18 days before the April election to 60 days before the election.
    - NJSBA and NJASBO successfully advocated for amendments to remove this provision.
- S2912: Provides police officers may be present at senior residential center or school being used as polling place under certain circumstances; requires school to establish election day security plan. (Near the Governor's Desk)

## School Security

- S2057: Requires certain documentation of needs of students with disabilities during school security drills and emergency situations and in school security plans; requires staff training on needs of students with disabilities in emergency planning. (Near the Governor's Desk)

# Hot Topics

## High School Graduation Requirements

- S50: Revises certain requirements concerning graduation proficiency test and eliminates requirement that graduation proficiency test be administered to eleventh grade students. (Near Gov's Desk)
- A4639: Eliminates high school graduation proficiency test. (Passed Assembly; awaits consideration in the Senate)
- A1181: Requires high school students to complete financial aid applications. (Passed Assembly; awaits consideration in the Senate)

# Recently Signed Bills

- **Sick Leave Expansion** ([A-5060](#)/P.L.2023, c.95)  
Expands the scope of allowable uses of sick leave for school district employees, such as to care for an ill family member
  - Previous law: All steadily employed school staff annually receive at least 10 days of sick leave. This leave may be used for personal illness or injury.
  - New law: Drastically expands the permissible uses of this statutory paid sick leave.
    - Mirrors 2018 NJ Earned Sick Leave Law (BOEs largely exempt).
    - Preventive care; Family illness; Reasons related to domestic abuse; Court appearances; School-related events
    - Also, Bereavement up to 7 days (not in 2018 law)
    - Prohibits documentation unless 3+ consecutive days used

# Recently Signed Bills

- **Educator Certification Fee Holiday** ([S-3941](#)/P.L.2023, c.70)
  - Waives certain certification and credentialing fees for educators for one year
  - FY24 Budget includes \$5m to pay for it
  - Educator candidates will be exempt from paying typical fees associated with certification, including application fees, renewal fees and related costs.
- **Sustainable Jersey Fund** ([S-2857](#)/P.L.2023, c.81)
  - Establishes the “Sustainable New Jersey Fund” in NJ Department of Environmental Protection.
  - DEP distributes funds to a public institution of higher education that partners with a nonprofit to offer grants to municipalities and public schools to support sustainability efforts

# Recently Signed Bills

- **Holocaust Instruction Survey** ([P.L.2023, c.36](#))
  - Requires NJDOE to distribute a survey measuring how each district is meeting the state’s requirement to include instruction on the Holocaust and genocide in an appropriate place in the K-12 curriculum
- **Tuition for Nonresident Students** ([P.L.2023, c.61](#))
  - Requires BOEs to charge all nonresident students admitted to the district a uniform tuition amount
  - ECSs must approve the amount
- **Lyme Disease Prevention Instruction** ([P.L.2023, c.60](#))
  - Requires school districts to incorporate guidelines developed by NJDOE regarding instruction in prevention of Lyme disease
- **School-Based Medicaid Expansion** ([A-3334/P.L.2023, c.108](#))
  - Requires Medicaid reimbursement for covered behavioral health services provided by local education agency to student who is eligible Medicaid beneficiary.

# Bills on the Governor's Desk

## Addressing the Educator Shortage:

- S1553: Permits State Board of Education to authorize alternative teaching certificate.
- A3681: Establishes New Jersey Educator Scholarship Program; appropriates \$3 million.
- S3798: Permits teacher, and professional staff member who provides special services, who retired from TPAF to return to employment for up to two years without reenrollment in TPAF if employment commences during the 2023-2024 school year.

## Mental Health

- S528: Requires certain additional school district personnel to complete training program on suicide prevention.
- S715: Establishes commission to study effects on adolescents of social media usage in and out of school.

# Bills on the Governor's Desk

## Finance and Operations

- A5329: Extends useful service life of certain school buses to 20 years; provides temporary one-year extension of service life of Type S school buses.
- S3044: Makes supplemental appropriation of \$15 million to DEP for implementation of Electric School Bus Program.
- S3950: Establishes exemption from State school aid reductions for certain school districts.
- S3089: Permits certain school districts to establish State military impact aid reserve account.
- S1221: Establishes program in DOE to reimburse school districts for providing menstrual products in certain public schools and requires State to pay costs.
- S2902: Allows ticket prices at postseason athletic events to be increased to offset event-related expenses.



# Bills Near the Governor

- **A3565**: Authorizes certain individuals to drive Type S school buses.
- **S530**: Requires certain school meal information be provided to public school students' parents and requires school districts to request that families apply for school meals under certain circumstances.
- **S3079**: Establishes School Safety and Security Task Force.
- **S2771**: Establishes five-year community schools pilot program.

# Looking Ahead

- Nov. 7, 2023: General Election
- Nov 2023-Jan 2024: Lame Duck
- Dec. 30, 2023: Deadline for Legislature to pass bills to avoid “pocket veto”
- Jan 8, 2024: Legislature must convene to consider any Gov vetoes from end of session
- Jan. 9, 2024: Reorganization of the 2024-2025 Legislative Session

# Thank You!

## **NJSBA Governmental Relations**

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