

FAIR FUNDING LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN

June 12, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The fair funding fight is still in full effect. As we approach the June 30th deadline for the state to release its final budget numbers, we want to continue to keep the pressure on. So far, the collective efforts of our community members, Chesterfield Township Board of Education and Township Committee have been heard loud and clear. We have attended and testified at budget hearings, called and written politicians, made our plight known through the use of the press, met with politicians and the Commissioner of the Department of Education, created a fair funding video (thank you Chesterfield Kids for Community), attended Town Halls held by the Governor, and worked with various organizations to advance our fight for fair funding. This has been a team effort, and people from all over the state are engaged in this fight.

Hope is on the horizon. State legislators from both parties have come out in support of fair funding and voiced a desire to permanently fix the school funding law. Currently, Senate President Stephen Sweeney and Senators Samuel Thompson, M. Teresa Ruiz, and Sandra Cunningham are sponsoring bill S2 which would modify the school funding law by eliminating growth caps and phasing out adjustment aid. **While the legislative process can be complex, this is a positive step, and negotiations are underway to address fixing the funding problem. This could result in a significant increase for Chesterfield for the 2018-19 school year.** However, as the governor has yet to come out with a firmly defined plan to fix this issue, we want to continue to reinforce our position to him.

As such, we are asking that you take some time out of your day and fight for our kids. **Please write a letter to the Governor Murphy outlining how your family and children have been affected by the state's failure to fully fund our school.** We have been told that personal letters are far more effective which is why we are asking you to put this in your own words and not providing a pre-written letter for you to simply sign.

Some ideas for your letter.....

- Chesterfield is the most underfunded district in the state. Last year, we received 20% of our uncapped state aid.
- As a result of continued underfunding, we have been forced to cut staff and programs and have been unable to undertake improvements to our curricula and make necessary building repairs.
- Ask the governor to work with members of the legislature in order to come up with a permanent solution which would eliminate growth caps, reallocate adjustment aid, and ultimately fully fund Chesterfield. Our town has seen a significant population growth, but we do not receive state aid based on our actual enrollment.
- Chesterfield residents are overtaxed. Our residents pay more than 130% of our local fair share.
- Talk about services your child is missing out on.
- Talk about the things you would like to see for your children such as a new social studies program, increased technology, security updates, additional special education staff, STEM programs, and a choir.

ONCE YOU HAVE WRITTEN YOUR LETTER, YOU MAY RETURN IT TO THE SCHOOL VIA YOUR CHILD'S HOMEROOM TEACHER BY TUESDAY, JUNE 19TH, 2018. We will be submitting letters collected from the town en mass as a way to make a statement to the governor. For anyone wanting assistance writing his/her letter, the committee will be having a letter writing session at the municipal building on June 21st from 4:00 – 5:30 PM.

Please also take the time to call Governor Murphy's office (each day if you can) at 609-292-6000, and let him know how you feel.

Thank you,
The Joint Community Outreach Committee
(Please note this is entirely voluntary.)

June _____, 2018

Dear Governor Murphy,

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Sincerely,