



New Jersey Catholic Conference
149 North Warren Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08608
609-989-1120

ACTION ALERT

ISSUE: In the FY 2016 Appropriations Act, the Legislature provided \$5.7 million to the nonpublic school community for the Nonpublic School Security Aid. Unfortunately, \$2 million of that amount was redirected to Higher Education for an institution of higher education. However, the remaining \$25.00 per pupil was used quite efficiently by nonpublic school administrators to provide additional safety precautions for the schools. Now, because the program exists solely as a result of Budget language instead of encoded in law by statute, we ask that Governor Christie retain the Security Aid language in his FY 2017 State Budget.

OUR POSITION: The New Jersey Catholic Conference and the New Jersey Network of Catholic School Families have supported the Nonpublic School Security Program since its inception and will be working diligently to retain it in the next budget cycle.

ACTION: Call, write, or email the office of Governor Chris Christie at the address listed below. Use the enclosed Talking Points for further clarification the issue. We encourage group letter writing sessions in schools and any efforts made to contact members of the Governor's staff that you may know personally with regard to this effort. Please note that this initiative is focused strictly on the Governor at this time because the Legislature will not begin developing a Budget until the Governor's Budget has been presented in February.

Address: The Honorable Chris Christie
Governor of the State of New Jersey
The State House
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Phone: (609) 292-6000

Email: <http://www.nj.gov/governor/contact/>

Or

You can also contact Governor Christie through the NJCC Voter Voice System
<https://www.votervoice.net/NJCC/Campaigns/43999/Respond>

Representing the Archdiocese of Newark, Diocese of Camden, Diocese of Metuchen,
Diocese of Paterson, Diocese of Trenton, Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic and
Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese

Talking Points on Nonpublic School Security Aid

- In the FY 2016 Appropriations Act, the Legislature inserted Budget language (which has the force of law) appropriating \$5.7 million to the nonpublic school community for security provisions. Unfortunately, the language also included a second sentence which diverted \$2 million of that amount to Higher Education for an institution of higher education most in need of security provisions.
- While the nonpublic school community did receive \$25.00 per pupil, we believe that much more is necessary. The public school community has a “Security Aid” line item in the annual Appropriations Act totally over \$195 million. Even though this account may be used for other purposes, if one were to divide the population of public school students into that amount, the result is \$138.00 per pupil for public school pupils. That amount is far above the \$25.00 per pupil allotted to the nonpublic school students.
- Nonpublic school students face the same risks as the public school students in regard to safety. In many cases, religious schools are much more often targets for security threats than their public school counterparts.
- Surrounding states have provided increasing amounts of money for security programs in public and nonpublic schools in recent Budget cycles. There is no reason why New Jersey should not continue to provide (and increase) funding for nonpublic schools students’ security.
- Please feel free to describe the effective use of this year’s funding in your school community.