



# Brick Township Public Schools

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## PRESS RELEASE

### ***S2 A Formula for Inadequacy***

*Op-Ed*

S2 was passed in 2018 and aimed to deal with the inequities caused by the school funding formula; *BUT it did not tackle the formula itself*. NJ constitutionally requires a “thorough and efficient” (“T & E”) education for ALL students. There is an “Adequacy Budget” set by the State. S2’s stated purpose was to ensure “adequate” funding by directing appropriate funding accordingly. On the contrary, it negatively affected districts like Brick that were under adequacy to start. State aid to these negatively affected S2 districts has been reduced at an exorbitant rate which far outpaces what the District can replenish annually and put back.

Brick Schools is substantially under adequacy by \$23 million. Brick Schools has an efficient Cost-Per-Pupil of \$15,500, yet has had State Aid reduced by -49% under S2. As Brick further falls below adequacy, it would take Brick over 7 years to catch up to other districts. Class sizes will continue to increase with Brick averaging around 30 in elementary classes with some as high as 34. In addition, staff will be reduced and programs will be cut to balance a budget (required by law). These are lost opportunities for our students.

Brick Schools is efficient and effective; with one of the lowest cost-per-pupil and Administrative costs in the state. Our students are held to the same standards and deserve the same opportunities as other students in the State. We are forced to do more with less with the same expectations. Who would oppose ALL students across the State being within a reasonable range of their required “T & E” education?

\$12 billion will be distributed by the State, inequitably, to NJ school districts. Residents have been paying twice for schools – property taxes for their local schools and income taxes for other schools. The State believes that our Community’s “Local Fair Share” is high enough and that we should pay more. What about the “State’s Fair Share”?! Brick’s money is going to Trenton and it’s not coming back! We are simply running out of time. The time is now for all of us to come together and advocate for our efficient and effective school district that has been punished by the S2 formula for inadequacy!

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Brick Township Public School District

For additional information on the news that is the subject of this release, contact Dr. Thomas Farrell, Superintendent of Schools, at ext. 1019 or e-mail [tfarrell@brickschools.org](mailto:tfarrell@brickschools.org)

***Student-Centered, Teacher-Led***