



MILLTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education

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The new state budget agreed to by the legislature and Governor Murphy has changed the way that the state school funding formula is calculated. Due to the changed calculation, the Milltown School District will receive \$247,957 more than we had received in the original allocation notice for this budget year. According to Governor Murphy, this increase in state aid seeks to rectify inequities in funding among districts throughout the state. It also offers some relief from the massive state aid cuts (\$700,000+) that Milltown dealt with under Governor Christie in 2010, and to this point. We do anticipate that Governor Murphy's renewed focus on education will perpetuate this level of aid in the upcoming years.

The majority of this new aid will be allocated to meet immediate needs that were unable to be funded otherwise. The most apparent impact for the 2018-19 school year will be the addition of a middle school social studies teacher, in order to equal the number of staff in the middle school science department. We will also see the addition of a STEM lab in the JK media center, which will be equipped with devices and manipulatives to challenge our students as 21st century learners.

It is important to the Board, Superintendent and Business Administrator, that our budgeting process be thoughtful, transparent, and take into consideration the District's immediate and long-term goals. Although we always fully invest the state aid funds in Milltown Schools, due to the fact that the 2018-19 budget has already been developed, we have decided to allocate approximately \$100,000 of the increased school aid for 2018-19 tax relief. This tax relief is also in recognition of the strain that the previous years of reduced state education aid have put on the residents of Milltown. Therefore, the tax levy as presented in the May public budget hearing will be reduced, lowering the school tax impact on the homeowner for 2018-19.

We are very thankful for this increased state funding, and excited about using it to best serve our students in an educational environment of continued excellence.

Yours in education,

Dr. Stephanie Brown, Superintendent