

Trenton Times (July 29, 2007)

### **Seeking redress for unfair school funding**

In order to stop some misinformation regarding the joint lawsuit that was filed against the state of New Jersey by Washington Township and the school board in the letter “School funding gets an ‘F’ for foolish” (July 25), I ask readers to consider the following:

The state of New Jersey admitted that its Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act funding formula is unfair, but hasn’t enacted change. The joint committee on school funding concluded the same thing last year, but the government failed to act on its recommendations.

Fact: Twenty percent of the districts received 60 percent of the funding. Other districts that have the same wealth factor (district factor group – I or “DFG-I”) as Washington Township do get core curriculum aid, often several million dollars per year. We have lost more than \$20 million in aid over the years, due to the inequity of the state’s school funding system. The result: Only 10 percent of the school budget is funded by the state and 90 percent is funded through property taxes. Officials have repeatedly met with legislatures, to no avail. The lawsuit was the next step.

Our district continues to deliver a quality educational program on more than just \$11,000 per student – which is \$2000 under the state average – despite receiving no core curriculum aid. We don’t have a spending problem, we have a revenue problem.

- MAXINE FOX

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Washington Township Board of Education