

Trenton Times (August 3, 2007)

Overspending is the problem

In response to the letter "Seeking redress for unfair school funding" (July 29), I think the author, the vice president of the Washington Township school board, doesn't get it. The state of New Jersey admits that the state school funding formula is unfair. Suing the state is not going to change anything. Maybe the state is sending school boards a message: We are not going to fund your overspending. The state is telling school boards in every school district to be more responsible with the taxpayers' money.

The letter writer goes on to say that "we don't have a spending problem, we have a revenue problem." This is far from true. When there is no money in the checkbook, you cannot write any more checks. If you do, your checks will bounce. The board's only options then are to borrow or raise taxes. Borrowing and raising taxes make the case that the school board is spending too much. The school board has to learn to spend only what it takes in. This is the only way we will have a balanced budget.

The point is, suing the state is probably foolish, because it costs money. Washington Township taxpayers have to pay for the lawsuit. Taxpayers from all over the state have to pay for the state to fight the lawsuit. It costs the taxpayers from Washington Township twice the expense. After it's all said and done, nobody might win anything.

-JOSEPH R. ARMENTI
Washington Township

The writer is a former Washington
Township school board member