

# SHAMONG TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**District Web Page:**

[www.shamongschools.org](http://www.shamongschools.org)

March 4, 2024

Dear Shamong School Community

On February 29, 2024, the state aid figures for the 2024-2025 budget were provided to New Jersey School Districts. We received notice that our state aid has been reduced by \$576,413. This unprecedented reduction in our allocated aid this year will require that we reevaluate our local budget and make cuts that will inevitably impact programs and staffing.

Senate Bill S2 mandated reductions in state aid for identified districts and redirected funding to other districts. Shamong, along with around 200 other districts, were impacted by S2. Since the 2018-2019 budget year, we have realized reductions in state aid. The state aid reduction for 2024-2025 was originally slated to be \$274,180, yet our reduction was more than doubled. The cumulative loss of state aid since the 2018-2019 budget has totaled over \$2,000,000.

I have continued to advocate for our district and the impact the state aid reductions have had on our district. As one of the founding districts of "Support our Students", we continue to make it our mission to call on our state leaders to stop the reductions in aid that are negatively impacting the education provided to our students. I have also signed up to testify at the Senate Budget hearings.

If you wish to convey your disappointment and frustrations over the reduction in state aid to our district, you can reach out to the District 8 Legislative representatives via their website (<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/district-8>) or to Governor Murphy (<https://nj.gov/governor/>). Please share your concerns not just for now, but for the future of our district.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Vespe".

Dr. Christine Vespe  
Superintendent of Schools