

**Board of Chosen Freeholders**

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MEDIA RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****DATE: March 12, 2020****Contact: Shaun C. Van Doren, Freeholder Director**Shaun.vandoren@co.hunterdon.nj.us

**Over 600 Residents
Join On-line Petition To Restore Aid Cuts
Targeting Hunterdon County Schools**

Hunterdon County Freeholder John E. Lanza has announced that in less than a week over 600 Hunterdon County residents have signed on to the on-line petition calling on Legislative Leaders to restore Governor Murphy's proposed \$2.7 million in school aid cuts to Hunterdon County schools.

"There's still time to join the petition drive," Lanza said. "Hunterdon residents are fed up with being targeted by the Murphy Administration for school aid cuts. Last year it was \$2.1 million in cuts and this year it is \$2.7 million in cuts."

Click here to participate in the School Aid Cuts Petition

Lanza added, "As I stated at a recent Freeholder meeting, school aid cuts directly result in property tax increases, the reduction in quality of education for our school children, and the loss of teacher jobs.

Last year the Governor proposed \$2.1 million in aid cuts to Hunterdon schools, while increasing education aid across the state by \$440 million. This year he is proposing raising the income tax to generate \$600 million to be dedicated to school property tax relief- but Hunterdon County's aid is still being reduced by \$2.7 million.

More money for school aid across the state, but less support for Hunterdon County schools. Doesn't make sense to me."

Lanza pointed out that last year's petition drive gained the attention of Legislative Leaders and resulted in some add back of school funds in the final state budget. "We have to get their attention again this year," the Freeholder said.