

NJEA's Principles of Fair School Funding

1. The SFRA formula should be run every year and fully funded, to the maximum extent possible.
2. A process must be developed to transition back to full funding, while avoiding any reductions of school aid which further underfund schoolchildren. When increasing school aid, priority should be given to districts that are significantly "below adequacy."
3. Extraneous and unnecessary categories of non-formula aid added subsequent to the passage of SFRA must be eliminated, with that aid reallocated in accordance with the formula.
4. If revenue is insufficient for full funding, the formula must still be run, but aid to districts should be prorated. The Legislature should endeavor to establish a sustainable and reliable revenue stream to fully fund public education.
5. Modifications to SFRA weights and base amounts must only be implemented in accordance with the SFRA three-year "look back" provisions, pursuant to an Educational Adequacy Report.
6. Eliminate tax levy caps on school budgets. They limit a district's ability to provide a thorough and efficient education. If caps remain, appropriate exceptions and waiver opportunities should be available.
7. Any changes to the funding formula must pass through the legislative committee process and include ample input from experts and stakeholders.
8. Consideration must be given to amending current charter school and school funding laws to eliminate any negative impact of charter school funding on district schools.
9. The preschool expansion provisions of SFRA should be fully implemented.
10. Consideration should be given to amending or revising the SFRA provisions for allocating aid for special education, after appropriate expert study and public input. Specifically, enrollment-based funding should be studied as a preferred method over census-based funding.