

BOARD OF EDUCATION

HIGH POINT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear High Point Community,

I hope this letter finds you well during these challenging and unprecedented times. I want to thank you for your understanding and continued compliance with necessary COVID protocols and for your enduring patience. Throughout this past year our primary concern has been for the wellbeing of our students and the families of our community.

In spite of the COVID challenges with which we still contend, the New Jersey Department of Education has increased their efforts to redistribute your property tax dollars to other communities throughout New Jersey. This year High Point will experience another devastating state aid cut of \$797,233. Over the past six years, High Point has now lost \$2,301,790 in state funding. During those same six years, the High Point Board of Education has reduced their budget by \$1,759,275. The state aid cuts effectively result in a direct tax increase to our community. It is expected that the state will take another \$2.5 million over the next three years thereby effectively reducing our state aid to \$0. Once these cuts are concluded in 2025, Trenton will have redistributed \$4.8 million of your local property tax dollars to other regions of the state.

High Point must continue to reduce staff, educators, administration, programs and all discretionary spending. These cuts harm our students and community resulting in reduced programs and educational opportunities. The High Point Board of Education is committed to ensuring our students receive an educational experience that prepares them for a lifetime of success in all endeavors. However, this redistribution of your property taxes will significantly compromise our ability to provide that educational experience.

We believe that High Point is a special place; we are passionate about inspiring our students to love learning and to believe in themselves. Our hope is to effectively manage these next three years of property tax redistribution so as to limit the negative impact to our students and families. Should you wish to communicate any concerns over this issue to your state and local officials, contact information is provided below. I remain personally committed to the long term stability and success of the children of this community and High Point Regional High School.

Sincerely,



Dr. Scott Ripley
Superintendent

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