

Mayor
Gina LaPlaca

Township Committee
Terrance Benson
Kendra Hatfield
Rue Ryan
Ryan Tuno



Township Administrator
Brandon E. Umba

Chief Finance Officer
Robin Sarlo, CMFO, QPA, CTC

Township Clerk
Bobbie Quinn, RMC/CMR

Office of the Governor
Governor Phil Murphy
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

March 1, 2021

Dear Governor Murphy,

Here in Lumberton, as in many of the towns of the 8th Legislative District, we are facing enormous State aid cuts to our schools. This year, state aid to the Lumberton Township School District is slated to be cut by 13 percent, on top of a 10 percent cut in the previous year. If the current funding proposal stands, in the past two years alone, we will have lost \$1,597,177 in State aid.

Our children and our school district cannot afford another year of ever-increasing reductions in school aid, and will almost certainly be forced to make significant program cuts. Our educators and staff have taken on unprecedented challenges to educate and enrich our students during the global pandemic and we now fear that with these ongoing cuts our students' future will be in jeopardy.

We are glad that many districts who were short-changed for years are finally receiving the state aid that they deserve and should have been receiving all along. However, we should not and cannot do so at the expense of our students' educational opportunities. We need to be working together to serve all the children of New Jersey, equally and fairly and provide each child with the education they deserve.

As Lumberton continues to grow, we nevertheless are facing more years of drastic cuts to our State education funding, according to a formula that is in dire need of updating. Our school district has already made difficult choices when it comes to our student's educational needs and very soon, they may be forced to lay off some of our excellent educators that have been working day in and day out throughout this pandemic to ensure that all of our children have a bright future.

Please help us ensure that this does not happen. We ask that you do everything in your power to secure additional funding for all districts so that Lumberton and New Jersey will continue to be a great place to live. Perhaps it is also time to revisit and reimagine our school funding formula so that all schools are fully funded and no one is left shortchanged. With your help we know that this is possible. We are available anytime to assist you in our fight for our children and our educators. If we can help, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gina LaPlaca".

Gina LaPlaca
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rue Ryan".

Rue Ryan
Deputy Mayor