



Clinton Township School District

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Statement from Superintendent
Dr. Michele Cone
May 13, 2019

This is budget time for schools across the state. As you know, we have had a glimpse what is going to happen in Trenton, which affects all of us in education, since the Governor gave his budget message in February.

I think all of us here understand the circumstances that we are confronting. I recently went to a superintendents' conference in Trenton and everyone there was discussing what they are going to have to do to meet this coming year's budget projection. It is clear to everyone that we are not going to get the money we need from the state to cover our budget estimations for next year.

Let me be very clear about our priorities as we go through this process. This Board has always put the students and their needs at the forefront of everything that we do. Each year at about this time, we are required by state law to review and evaluate the Teaching Assistants based on student need and then we hire Teaching Assistants accordingly for the coming academic year. We are required by state law to inform all staff, including the Teaching Assistants, by May 15th that this assessment is in the process and that we will make decisions about hiring after this assessment is completed.

Keep in mind that the state has essentially said to us that Clinton Township does not have the student population that it did 10 years ago, so they are cutting our aid. Now it is up to us to figure out how to deal with those cuts while maintaining the quality of education that we cherish here in this district.

Due to the following factors – decreasing pupil enrollment, current and expected future reductions in state aide, and uncertainty regarding the district's staffing needs for Teacher Assistants – we are evaluating the teachers' assistant program for the 2019-2020 school year. That doesn't mean that we will not have teaching assistants. If there are certain student needs that require a teaching assistant, we will put out a notice and match the qualifications of the Teaching Assistants with the needs of the students.

Currently, the Administration anticipates posting for open Teacher Assistant positions sometime in June 2019 and current Teaching Assistants are encouraged to apply to the District for employment at that time. I discussed this with the leadership of the Clinton Township Education Association on Tuesday, May 7th so that they were informed of what we were considering.

Between the reorganization that we went through over the summer last year, and what we are doing this year with the Teaching Assistant program, we will maintain the tenured faculty that we now have and will comply with IEP driven recommendations regarding Teaching Assistants. Now it's up to us to deal with the cuts and continue to provide the quality education the district is committed to while with matching student needs with qualification of individual Teaching Assistants.

We also feel that we will maintain the high standards of education that is the hallmark of this school system.