



MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

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For Immediate Release - July 26, 2024

Mayor Sciarra's Statement on Potential Increased Funding for Northampton Public Schools

Late Wednesday, July 24, 2024, the Division of Local Services posted the preliminary cherry sheet estimates based on the Conference Committee's FY2025 Budget recommendation. The proposed budget includes an increase of \$104 per student in Chapter 70 over FY2024, an increase of \$74 per student over the Governor's proposed budget, which was used to develop my FY2025 Budget.

While these are still preliminary estimates and subject to change as the legislative process continues, I am committed to making sure the additional Chapter 70 funds, pushed and supported by our local legislators, get added to the school budgets if they are included in the final Governor's budget. Per the preliminary figures, this would mean an additional \$8,806 for Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School and an additional \$192,400 for the Northampton Public Schools.

In light of this, I want to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of Senator Jo Comerford, Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, the Northampton Association of School Employees (NASE), Superintendent Dr. Portia Bonner, the Mayor's office and the countless parents and residents who have urged the state to increase per student spending in this way. Their advocacy has been instrumental in reaching this point.

This action, should it be possible, is unprecedented and reflects my ongoing commitment to addressing the significant budgetary challenges facing our school district. If the funding is confirmed by the Governor's signature, I will immediately call for a special meeting of the City Council to appropriate these funds to our schools. This is a critical step in our collective efforts to right the fiscal course for the Northampton Public Schools and support our students and educators.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this important work at this time when public school districts across the country are struggling with increased costs and limited recurring resources . We remain optimistic and ready to ensure that any available funds are utilized effectively for the benefit of our students and community.

For more information, please contact my office at (413) 587-1249 or mayor@northamptonma.gov.