

Hoboken, Secaucus, Weehawken, Guttenberg stand to lose more in school aid

By Melissa Hayes/The Jersey Journal

March 16, 2010, 11:59AM



Amanda Brown/Star-Ledger PhotoGov. Chris Christie, behind state Commissioner of Education Bret Schundler, will announce school aid cuts during his budget address this afternoon. Schundler will hold a press conference after the address.

If school aid cuts are based on overall spending, rather than the amount of aid each district gets, most Hudson County districts would fair better.

But **Hoboken, Secaucus, Weehawken** and **Guttenberg** stand to see deeper state aid cuts.

Gov. Chris Christie is set to give his budget address this afternoon. Following his address, state Commissioner of Education **Bret Schundler**, a former Jersey City mayor, will hold a press conference to discuss school aid cuts.

According to Star Ledger columnist Paul Mulshine, Christie was set to announce 15 percent across-the-board cuts in state aid given to school districts.

For **Jersey City**, which was allocated \$418.5 million in state aid for the 2009-10 school year, that amounts to \$62.8 million.

But instead, Christie is expected to announce the state will cut 5 percent of a district's total spending. Most districts' budgets are comprised of more than 5 percent in state aid.

But for **Secaucus**, based on the 2009-10 aid allocations, the district could lose all of its aid, about \$1.7 million.

For **Jersey City**, a 5 percent spending cut — the district has a \$628.7 million 2009-10 budget — only amounts to \$31.4 million, about half of what the district stood to lose if 15 percent of its state aid allocation were cut.

Hoboken stands to lose twice as much under the overall spending cut. Based on the \$59.1 million 2009-10 budget, the district could lose \$2.96 million. But 15 percent of the \$9.4 million Hoboken receives in state aid is only \$1.4 million.

Based on 2009-10 state aid figures, **Weehawken** would lose \$520,567.65 if Christie cut 15 percent in school aid. But 5 percent of the district's spending, amounts to \$1.12 million.

Guttenberg would see a slight difference. A 15 percent school aid cut, based on 2009-10 figures, amounts to \$714,414.90, compared to a 5 percent overall spending cut of \$785,351.25.

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