

Talking Points for Nonpublic School Security Funding

- A line item for the nonpublic school security was placed in the State Budget in Fiscal Year 2017. The amount was \$11,300,000 or \$75.00 per pupil.
- Since 2017, there have been more security breaches in both public and nonpublic schools in the state. The current funding for Fiscal Year 2026 for nonpublic school security is \$30,550,000 or \$205.00 per pupil per year. That funding has remained flat for the last four Budget cycle.
- The initial funding was primarily used for “target-hardening.” Many nonpublic school buildings were built without the anticipation of security risks, particularly in religious schools. The October 7, 2023, attack initiated antisemitic incidents in New Jersey, estimated at over 800 such incidents in the twelve months following the attack.
- Other nonpublic school religious denominations in New Jersey and across the country have demonstrated the need for an enhanced and detailed security presence (e.g. the mass shooting at the Church of the Annunciation in Minneapolis, Minnesota).
- The 2026 Educational Adequacy Report (a public school document) increases security for all public school students. While “target hardening” in nonpublic school buildings (the initial priority) continues, the major focus now is on security guards.
- Nonpublic schools find it necessary to hire armed security for the protection of students and staff during school hours. Security companies are charging costly rates for these individuals.
- We are seeking an increase in the Governor’s Fiscal Year 2027 Budget to \$260.00 per pupil to cover these costs for the protection and well-being of all nonpublic school children.