

In the next state budget one of our major concerns is to increase the amount of money allocated to nonpublic school students for transportation.

This is a short breakdown of the situation:

For nonpublic schools, transportation is the lifeblood by which parents are able to send their children to Catholic schools. A nonpublic school student is able to receive transportation services at a cost of no more than the annual statutory ceiling (currently \$884.00 for the 2014-2015 school year). The ceiling has remained at \$884.00 since the 2008-2009 school year. We are asking Governor Christie to increase the ceiling for nonpublic school transportation to \$950.00 in his fiscal year 2016 Budget. This number would cover much of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increment since the freeze was initiated in 2008-2009 school year. Our hope is that this increase will permit private contractors to bid on nonpublic routes in order to salvage transportation for our students.

**Please take a few minutes and go to:**

**<https://votervoice.net/NJCC/Campaigns/37671/Respond>**

This is a quick way for you to voice your support for this budget increase on behalf of our Catholic school students. The most effective way of influencing change is for the Governor to hear from the people. We vote, we pay taxes and we would like to see a fair resolution to this current dilemma.

If you would like to read a more in-depth explanation of the transportation issue, please go to:

<http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Transportation-Q-A-Budget-Alert-.pdf>