PETITION TO STATE LEGISLATORS TO REFORM SCHOOL FUNDING IN NEW JERSEY

We, the members of the Community of Ramsey, NJ, believe that we are at a crossroads. The over reliance on property tax, the current school funding formula, and the unfunded state and federal mandates (legislated requirements) are posing insurmountable problems for our community. After flat state aid for two consecutive years, and minimal aid this year, our town and our school district has been forced to increase the property tax burden on our citizens and make cuts to some of our services and support programs. Next year, if predictions hold true, we will not receive any additional state aid. Our property taxes will continue to increase if we wish to maintain services and an excellent education for all of our children.

We urge you to find workable solutions that will lower the dependence on the property tax to fund education. Work to find a funding formula that will fairly redistribute the state aid for education so that each community receives a share that is appropriate to its needs and its financial contribution to Trenton. Please continue to review all mandates with goal of eliminating those that create both compliance and monetary burdens for school districts. Fully fund those mandates that cannot be eliminated.

PRINT NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE