

As a parent of the Paramus Public School District that represents 4,300 K-12 students, I am writing to express my deep concern with the impact of the IDEA Child Find activities for out-of-state students attending nonpublic schools in New Jersey.

Paramus is home to eleven nonpublic schools and Paramus Catholic High School alone has an enrollment of 87 students who reside outside the borders of New Jersey. The Paramus School District has been advised by the New Jersey Department of Education that our Board of Education is required to follow the same procedures for location, referral, and identification of out-of-state nonpublic school students as for in-state nonpublic and public school students. When it is determined that a Child Study Team evaluation, reevaluation, or annual review is warranted, the Paramus Public Schools must either conduct the evaluation or contract with an approved clinic or public education agency to conduct those services. The school district in which the nonpublic school is located must *pay* for the evaluation services. In this case, the Paramus Board of Education *may not* use Chapter 193 funds to evaluate out-of-state-students who are attending one of the nonpublic schools in Paramus. However, the New Jersey Department of Education has informed us that we *may* use local funds to meet this requirement; 90% are paid for by our local taxpayer.

How can it be possible that the State of New Jersey can deny the use of Chapter 193 funds for out-of-state residents yet impose that the Paramus Public Schools use its local funds for these same students? The Department has also suggested that we use district IDEA funds that are not part of the proportionate share to evaluate out-of-state students. Such funds do not exist. Finally, the Paramus Schools have been advised that should we not follow the procedures they have outlined, the out-of-state parent will file a complaint with NJDOE.

I urge you to review the Department of Education's interpretation of regulation 34 C F R § 300 131 (f) as well as pledge your efforts to assist our district with this unfair burden. Paramus is a proud community that supports the needs of all children; however, adding fiscal hardship for parentally placed students residing outside of New Jersey is neither rational nor equitable to our taxpayers.

Thank you for considering my concerns regarding Child Find activities. I look forward to talking with you about this issue.

Sincerely,