

To: Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, Assemblyman John McKeon, Senator Richard Codey
<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/SelectRep.asp> (click all three and use contact form)

Essex County Superintendent Joseph Zarra - joseph.zarra@doe.state.nj.us

Acting Commissioner Department of Education Angelica Allen - McMillan -

<https://www.nj.gov/education/contact/> (use the contact form)

Governor Phil Murphy - <https://nj.gov/governor/contact/all/> (use the contact form)

The South Orange Maplewood School District is in the process of undertaking a \$160 million dollar construction project to upgrade our long-neglected facilities. This long-range facilities plan includes upgrades to our HVAC systems in all of our school buildings along with many other necessary upgrades. The HVAC upgrades will allow our students and teachers to have proper airflow and will help to make it safer for our students and staff during the pandemic.

Due to COVID, our approvals from the New Jersey Department of Education have been delayed and are not yet completed. Because of this, we may miss the window of opportunity to get these much-needed upgrades to our elementary schools starting this summer. If we do not get these approvals by March, we may have to delay construction until the Summer of 2022, which will affect our ability to provide an environment that is conducive to learning for the students and staff of SOMSD.

{As a member of the South Orange/Maplewood Board of Education* } (change) I am asking for your help in order to help expedite the approval process. I am confident that everyone in South Orange and Maplewood would appreciate any help that you can provide.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for your help with this matter.

*The views expressed in this letter are my own and do not represent the views of the entire SOMSD Board of Education.