

Letter to the Editor: NJ State Report Card Shows Clifton Schools Not Overcrowded and Heavy in Number of Administrators

For years, the Clifton School District and some of the Clifton Board of Education Members have told the residents the schools are overcrowded and have well over 30 children in some classrooms. They have even tried to bully taxpayers into believing if they vote down the budget, class sizes will drastically rise. Too bad they didn't read the Department of Education's Annual State Report Card and I guess they were hoping taxpayers wouldn't read it as well.

Well, I read the 2008-2009 School Report Card (which can be found at [www.state.nj.us/education](http://www.state.nj.us/education)) and here is a summary of average class size at each one of the Clifton's schools compared with the state average.

<u>Average Class Size</u>	<u>2008 - 2009</u>	
	<u>School</u>	<u>State</u>
School #1	20.2	18.4
#2	17.9	18.4
#3	21.1	18.4
#4	20.3	18.4
#5	18.0	18.4
#8	20.2	18.4
#9	16.8	18.4
#11	22.1	18.4
#12	19.3	18.4
#13	22.1	18.4
#14	14.0	18.4
#15	21.3	18.4
#16	13.2	18.4
#17	18.7	18.4
Woodrow Wilson	19.9	18.4
Christopher Columbus	21.8	18.4
Clifton High School	19.9	18.4

According to the NJ State Report Card Clifton has 51 administrators versus the state average of 28. That is more than double the state average. From the above chart, you can see that class sizes in five of the Clifton Schools is below the state average. Once again, the old expression "figures don't lie, but liars figure" holds true.

Former Commissioner Mary Kowal's departing remarks ring loud in my ears – it's all about the money and getting their friends jobs and it has nothing to do with the children. We must demand honesty and accountability from our elected officials. With unemployment in Clifton at record levels, foreclosures at an all time high, no increases in social security benefits for our seniors and no raises for employees in the private sector, elected officials think Clifton taxpayers have an unlimited supply of money for them to spend. The house cleaning at the Clifton Board of Education must continue in the

upcoming BOE election! The voice of the people must be heard – Clifton taxpayers are broke and have no more money!

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