

**ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES

**EDUCATION AND LABOR**

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR  
AND PENSIONS (HELP)

MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
LIFELONG LEARNING AND COMPETITIVENESS

**ARMED SERVICES**

CHAIRMAN, PANEL ON DEFENSE ACQUISITION REFORM

MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
STRATEGIC FORCES

MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY,  
UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3001

PLEASE REPLY TO:

2265 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6501

516 GROVE STREET  
3RD FLOOR, SUITE 3C  
HADDON HEIGHTS, NJ 08035  
(856) 546-5100

63 NORTH BROAD STREET  
WOODBURY, NJ 08098  
(856) 546-5100

WEBSITE:

[www.house.gov/andrews](http://www.house.gov/andrews)

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education

May 26, 2010

Dear Commissioner Duncan,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;

Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;  
Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and

Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness. Should you have any further questions feel free to contact me or my Legislative Director, Michael Gaffin at 202-225-6501 or [Michael.gaffin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Michael.gaffin@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Robert E. Andrews  
Member, U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor



**NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JOHN F. AMODEO**  
ASSEMBLYMAN, 2ND DISTRICT  
1801 ZION ROAD  
NORTHFIELD, NJ 08226  
TEL (809) 877-8286  
FAX (809) 877-8933

COMMITTEES  
AGRICULTURE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
TRANSPORTATION,  
PUBLIC WORKS  
AND INDEPENDENT  
AUTHORITIES  
AsmAmodeo@njleg.org

May 19, 2010

Bret Schundler, Commissioner  
NJ Department of Education  
100 River View Plaza  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

I am writing in support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reform that our state needs. It is essential for New Jersey to strive for high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning. We are also in need of upgrading our data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making. In addition, it is crucial that we focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

I truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

JOHN F. AMODEO  
Assemblyman, District 2



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
PO BOX 729  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-729

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

KARA P. WOOD  
*Acting Commissioner*

May 27, 2010

Honorable Bret Schundler  
Commissioner  
NJ Department of Education  
100 Riverview Plaza  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Schundler,

I am writing on behalf of the NJ Department of Children and Families to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education. New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Ensure all students have the skills needed to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy by adopting high academic standards and investing in our teachers with high quality professional development
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating measures of student achievement into their evaluations and rewarding outstanding teachers.
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results of our most at-risk children.
- Upgrade New Jersey's data systems so student learning can be tracked throughout the year and students don't fall through the cracks.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kara P. Wood".

Kara P. Wood  
Acting Commissioner



# State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
HEALTH / AGRICULTURE BUILDING  
PO BOX 330  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0330

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

DOUGLAS H. FISHER  
*Secretary*

KIM GUADAGINO  
*Lt. Governor*

May 25, 2010

Honorable Bret Schundler  
Commissioner  
NJ Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

I am writing on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

Our interaction with the Department of Education in the past, particularly in connection with improving the nutrition education of students in our schools and through the Ag in the Classroom initiatives, has always been positive. I am sure the Department of Education will bring the same level of commitment and drive to any Race to the Top efforts.

New Jersey's proposal is ambitious and achievable, and accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- It ensures that all students have the skills needed to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy by adopting high academic standards and investing in our teachers with high-quality professional development
- It holds teachers and schools more accountable by incorporating measures of student achievement into evaluations and rewarding outstanding teachers.
- It focuses the necessary talent and skills on the lowest-performing schools to dramatically improve results of our most at-risk children.
- It upgrades New Jersey's data systems so learning can be tracked throughout the year.

The agricultural industry, like New Jersey's other industries, is growing increasingly technical and complex, and needs highly educated future employees. A Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Douglas H. Fisher



**State of New Jersey**

DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND INSURANCE

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

PO BOX 325

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0325

TEL (609) 292-7272

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

2010 MAY 27 P 1:32 THOMAS B. CONSIDINE  
*Commissioner*

OFFICE  
OF THE COMMISSIONER  
OF EDUCATION

May 25, 2010

The Honorable Bret Schundler  
Commissioner  
NJ Department of Education  
401 East State Street – 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

**Re: Federal Grant Competition – “Race to the Top”**

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

The New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance firmly support New Jersey’s proposal for a Race to the Top award from the United States Department of Education.

New Jersey’s proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Ensure all students have the skills needed to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy by adopting high academic standards and investing in our teachers with high quality professional development
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating measures of student achievement into their evaluations and rewarding outstanding teachers.
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results of our most at-risk children.
- Upgrade New Jersey’s data systems so student learning can be tracked throughout the year and students don’t fall through the cracks.



**State of New Jersey**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
PO Box 700  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0700

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

JENNIFER VELEZ  
*Commissioner*

May 25, 2010

Honorable Bret Schundler  
Commissioner  
Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Schundler,

I am writing on behalf of the Department of Human Services to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Ensure all students have the skills needed to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy by adopting high academic standards and investing in our teachers with high quality professional development.
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating measures of student achievement into their evaluations and rewarding outstanding teachers.
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results of our most at-risk children.
- Upgrade New Jersey's data systems so student learning can be tracked throughout the year and students don't fall through the cracks.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Velez  
Commissioner



# State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
WHITTLESEY ROAD  
PO Box 863  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0863

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

May 25, 2010

GARY M. LANIGAN  
*Commissioner*

Bret Schundler, Commissioner  
Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

I am writing on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Corrections to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Ensure all students have the skills needed to be a successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy by adopting high academic standards and investing in our teachers with high quality professional development.
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating measures of student achievement into their evaluations and rewarding outstanding teachers.
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results of our most at-risk children.
- Upgrade New Jersey's data system so students learning can be tracked throughout the year and students do not fall through the cracks.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Lanigan  
Commissioner

jp



**State of New Jersey**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
101 SOUTH BROAD STREET  
PO Box 800  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0800

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

LORI GRIFA  
*Acting Commissioner*

May 25, 2010

The Honorable Bret Schundler  
Commissioner, NJ Department of Education  
100 River View Plaza  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

I am writing on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education. New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Ensure all students have the skills needed to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy by adopting high academic standards and investing in our teachers with high quality professional development;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating measures of student achievement into their evaluations and rewarding outstanding teachers;
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results of our most at-risk children; and
- Upgrade New Jersey's data systems so student learning can be tracked throughout the year and students don't fall through the cracks.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Grifa", written over a large, faint circular stamp.

LORI GRIFA  
Acting Commissioner



# BOARD of CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

## COUNTY of CAPE MAY

4 Moore Road

Cape May Court House, N.J. 08210-1601

(609) 465-1065 □ Fax: 465-6189

Website: [www.capemaycounty.gov.net](http://www.capemaycounty.gov.net)

DANIEL BEYEL, *Director*  
*Director of Administration,*  
*Revenue & Finance*  
*and Public Works*

LEONARD C. DESIDERIO  
*Director of Planning and*  
*Economic & Capital Planning*

RALPH E. BAKLEY, SR.  
*Education, Library*  
*and Consumer Affairs*

RALPH E. SHEETS, JR., *Vice-Director*  
*Director of Public Safety*

GERALD M. THORNTON  
*Director of Health and*  
*Human Services*

STEPHEN O'CONNOR  
*County Administrator*



May 25, 2010

Re: Support Letter for New Jersey's Proposal for Rate to the Top

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Cape May to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Daniel Beyel  
Freeholder Director



**COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND  
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

LOUIS N. MAGAZZU, ESQ.  
FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR  
(856) 453-2125  
Fax: (856) 451-8243  
Email: Lmagazzu@aol.com

790 EAST COMMERCE STREET  
BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY 08302

May 21, 2010

Mr. Brett Schundler, Commissioner  
State of New Jersey  
Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 083625-0500

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	5/24/10	# of pages	1
To	Willa Spicer		From	L. Magazzu	
Co./Dept.			Co.		
Phone #			Phone #		
Fax #	609-216-7974		Fax #		

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

The Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders is pleased to offer our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that is tailored to the state's plan to:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning.
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instructions and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

A Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

LOUIS N. MAGAZZU, FREEHOLDER  
Cumberland County Board  
of Chosen Freeholders

cc: Richard Stepura, Ed.D., County Superintendent





# New Jersey School Boards Association

413 West State Street • P.O. Box 909 • Trenton, NJ 08605-0909 • Telephone: 609.695.7600 • Toll-Free: 888.88NJSBA • Fax: 609.695.0413

*logged*

May 18, 2010

Mr. Bret Schundler  
Commissioner of Education  
New Jersey State Department of Education  
100 River View Plaza  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

The New Jersey School Boards Association strongly endorses New Jersey's round two Race to the Top grant application and will encourage its member school boards to give all consideration to signing memoranda of understanding to participate in programs funded through the grant.

The proposals reflected in the round two application would expand on the innovative strategies contained in the state's initial application and would serve to open doors to educational opportunity for disadvantaged students, advance student achievement by providing additional teacher compensation based on classroom performance, build an accurate and useful database of student achievement, and give local school officials the ability to retain the best teachers by making needed changes in the state's tenure and senior system.

- **Helping Students in Struggling Schools** – Although New Jersey has made substantial progress in closing the academic achievement gap, every effort must be made to improve academic achievement in persistently low-performing schools. The grant application calls for implementation of innovative strategies to change the culture of these schools and provide essential opportunity for their students. Significantly, it would enable local boards of education to originate initiatives to turn around troubled schools through the creation of innovative “achievement academies.”
- **Standards & Assessments** – Our Association, which includes 588 local school districts and 44 charter school associate members, is a long-time supporter of standards-based education. In November 2009, the NJSBA Delegate Assembly endorsed the concept of national standards. We are enthusiastic about the grant application's emphasis on high standards and its goal of creating an assessment system designed to help teachers identify and implement strategies to help students meet those educational goals.
- **Data Tracking System** – The grant proposes a robust data system that will enable state and local school officials and teachers not only to track the academic records of students, but also to use that data to measure student achievement and to implement improvement strategies.

- **Attracting Talented Teachers to Low-Performing Schools** – NJSBA has long supported the ability of local school districts to use additional compensation, such as “signing bonuses,” to meet staffing needs. The application would apply federal grant money toward a similar concept: attracting successful, effective educators to teach students in the most challenging environment.

The New Jersey School Boards Association believes the grant application represents our state’s commitment to genuine education reform. We urge the United States Department of Education to consider how students, particularly those most at risk academically, socially and economically, would benefit from the innovative strategies contained in our state’s round two Race to the Top grant application and to act favorably on the proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie S. Bilik".

Marie S. Bilik  
Executive Director



## New Jersey Association of School Administrators

920 West State Street • Trenton, New Jersey 08618-5328  
609.599.2900/ Fax 609.599.1893 website: <http://njasa.net>

Richard G. Bozza, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

May 21, 2010

Bret Schundler  
Commissioner of Education  
New Jersey State Department of Education  
100 River View Plaza  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

The New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA) voted at its May 20, 2010 Executive Committee meeting to support New Jersey's second round application to secure funding through the federal *Race to the Top* program. The Association leadership recognizes the critical importance to all New Jersey residents in advancing reforms around the four areas addressed in the program:

- Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;
- Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;
- Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and
- Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.

NJASA will encourage Chief Education Officers throughout the state to participate in the program with the New Jersey Department of Education.

The NJASA leadership remains committed to working cooperatively with you, NJ DOE staff members, and other education stakeholders to ensure that success in receiving a grant from the *Race to the Top* fund will result in enhanced student achievement, fair and meaningful evaluation of school personnel focused on student attainment, and continued collaboration focused on improving outcomes beyond those areas currently assessed by traditional measurements. NJASA members look forward to the opportunity to play an active role as critical stakeholders in the design and implementation of the state's educational reform strategies.

NJASA urges the United States Department of Education to respond favorably to New Jersey's proposal and to award funding which will support the work of educators to advance reforms which will significantly change and improve educational outcomes for New Jersey students.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Bozza, Ed.D.  
Executive Director



*Association of Independent Colleges  
and Universities in New Jersey*

*Member Colleges  
and Universities*

Bloomfield College  
Caldwell College  
Cenacary College  
College of Saint Elizabeth  
Drew University  
Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Felician College  
Georgian Court University  
Monmouth University  
Princeton University  
Rider University  
Saint Peter's College  
Seton Hall University  
Stevens Institute of Technology

May 26, 2010

The Honorable Bret Schundler  
Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Education,  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, New Jersey 08650-0500

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

Our 14 member colleges and universities support New Jersey's Race to the Top grant application. The Association's member institutions are interested in continuing the strong working relationship we have enjoyed over the years in meeting the educational needs of the residents of our State.

Success in competing for a Race to the Top grant will enable New Jersey to focus on the needs of the students in school districts where the performance has been below the norm to strengthen the schools and improve the educational attainment of the students.

We wish you much success in the competition for this grant and look forward to collaborating with you in the important endeavors you will lead in implementing New Jersey's Education Reform Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J.B. Wilson".

John B. Wilson  
President and CEO

/s/

# NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

*Proposed*

May 20, 2010

Mr. Bret Schundler  
Commissioner of Education  
State of New Jersey  
Department of Education  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler,

I am writing on behalf of the New Jersey Charter Schools Association to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

We look forward to continued involvement in these efforts on behalf of New Jersey's children.

Sincerely,



Rick Pressler  
Interim Director

May 24, 2010

Bret Schundler  
Commissioner of Education  
NJ Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

On behalf of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities, I strongly support New Jersey's *Race to the Top* proposal to the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's nine state colleges and universities are the state's primary source of baccalaureate and graduate education, graduating annually, nearly 50% of all baccalaureate graduates, and serve as the state's major teacher training institutions.

These colleges and universities are committed to strong, effective partnership with New Jersey's schools. I believe that New Jersey's proposal will help to ensure college and career readiness for our students, and will help to make New Jersey and America more economically competitive.

The proposal contains important innovative provisions regarding assessment and evaluation of learning outcomes and professional standards; it provides for systematic collection of longitudinal data; and provides a sound system of accountability to help sustain needed reform, and to ensure success over the long-term.

Under the leadership of your office, and with strong support from other constituencies, I believe that New Jersey's education reform plan, with a *Race to the Top* award, will greatly benefit citizens in the Garden State.

Sincerely yours,

Darryl G. Greer, Ph.D.  
CEO

DGG:crp



# New Jersey State Federation of Teachers

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

629 Amboy Avenue, 2nd Floor, Edison, NJ 08837

Phone: (732) 661-9393 FAX: (732) 661-1776

Website: [nj.aft.org](http://nj.aft.org)

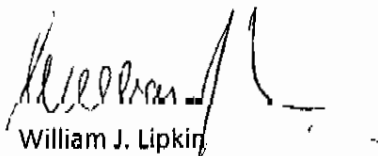
May 25, 2010

Ms. Willa Spicer

New Jersey Department of Education

This is to inform you that the AFT- New Jersey State federation supports the State's efforts to participate in the Race to the Top Program. All of our Pre K-12 locals will be signing on to round two of the program as they all did for the first round. American federation of Teachers (AFT) represents over 40,000 members in the state of New Jersey, of which over 8,500 are in Pre K-12 school districts. As usual, AFT is willing to partner with the state for the benefit of our students. If I can be of any further assistance please call me at 732-661-9393.

Yours sincerely,



William J. Lipkin

President



NEW JERSEY

**Association of State Colleges and Universities**

150 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Phone: (609) 989-1100

Fax: (609) 989-7017

May 24, 2010

Bret Schundler  
Commissioner of Education  
NJ Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

On behalf of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities, I strongly support New Jersey's *Race to the Top* proposal to the U.S. Department of Education.

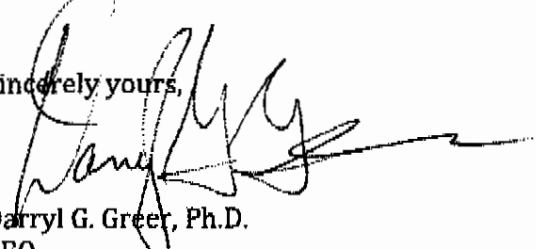
New Jersey's nine state colleges and universities are the state's primary source of baccalaureate and graduate education, graduating annually, nearly 50% of all baccalaureate graduates, and serve as the state's major teacher training institutions.

These colleges and universities are committed to strong, effective partnership with New Jersey's schools. I believe that New Jersey's proposal will help to ensure college and career readiness for our students, and will help to make New Jersey and America more economically competitive.

The proposal contains important innovative provisions regarding assessment and evaluation of learning outcomes and professional standards; it provides for systematic collection of longitudinal data; and provides a sound system of accountability to help sustain needed reform, and to ensure success over the long-term.

Under the leadership of your office, and with strong support from other constituencies, I believe that New Jersey's education reform plan, with a *Race to the Top* award, will greatly benefit citizens in the Garden State.

Sincerely yours,



Darryl G. Greer, Ph.D.  
CEO

DGG:crp

---

[www.njascu.org](http://www.njascu.org)

*The College of New Jersey  
Kean University  
Montclair State University*

*New Jersey City University  
Ramapo College of New Jersey  
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey*

*Rowan University  
Thomas Edison State College  
William Paterson University*



May 25, 2010

The Honorable Bret Schundler  
Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Education  
100 River View Plaza  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: Race to the Top Award

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

On behalf of the 250 members of BioNJ, the trade association for New Jersey's growing biotechnology industry, I am writing to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top Award from the U.S. Department of Education. If New Jersey is to maintain its position as a leader in the discovery and development of new medicines and therapies, a strong and innovative educational system is an absolute necessity.

New Jersey has set out an ambitious and achievable plan to develop and institute the reforms that our State needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

As an industry that depends on an educated and motivated workforce to achieve its goals, we are confident that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Please let me know how we can help to advance this important initiative. Thank you for the opportunity.

Kind regards,

Debbie Hart  
President

May 25, 2010

Dear Sir or Madam:

Mathematica Policy Research is pleased to support the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDoE) in its application for a Race to the Top (RTTT) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. We believe that the Federal RTTT competition represents an unprecedented opportunity for New Jersey to identify and implement reforms that can substantially improve the performance of its students, and to support public education in New Jersey at a critical time of fiscal uncertainty. We also believe that New Jersey is extremely well-positioned to take advantage of this opportunity, having initiated important reforms in each of the four RTTT assurance areas and providing an excellent environment to test the effects of alternative reforms because of its diverse population and large number of school districts.

We look forward to the opportunity to contribute to New Jersey's RTTT reform initiatives. To fund this work, Mathematica, Educational Testing Services (ETS), and NJDoE will partner to establish a new technical assistance and research center, charged with supporting and evaluating the results of the state's educational reforms. Funding for this center will be sought through two grant applications to the Institute of Education Sciences, for (a) the Evaluation of State and Local Programs and Policies and (b) the National Research and Development Centers competitions, and other sources. Should the center receive funding, Mathematica will contribute in at least two important ways during the period of the grant:

1. Mathematica will serve as an external evaluation partner for the state's RTTT and other reform initiatives. Collaborating with NJDoE and ETS, Mathematica will monitor the implementation and outcomes of reforms, and provide timely feedback to inform course corrections.
2. Mathematica will validate New Jersey's first estimates of student achievement growth, which are being developed using percentile growth methods, and assess their suitability for teacher evaluation, pay-for-performance, tenure, and other relatively high-stakes decisions. For instance, Mathematica will assess the sensitivity of bonus award decisions to estimation based on alternative statistical models which represent the methodological state-of-the-art in measures of teacher effectiveness. Mathematica will formulate recommendations to the state regarding fair and objective manners to allocate these awards and make other teacher-focused decisions.

LETTER TO: Sir or Madam  
FROM: Barbara Devaney  
DATE: May 25, 2010  
PAGE: 2

Mathematica is strongly committed to working with NJDoE to improve the effectiveness of its teachers and the achievement of its students, and to develop knowledge and tools that can ultimately support educational improvement on a much larger scale. This work is consistent with Mathematica's mission to improve public well-being by bringing the highest standards of quality, objectivity, and excellence to bear in program evaluation and policy analysis. Mathematica is also extremely well qualified to take on this work. Our substantive expertise in all of the RTTT assurance areas; extensive experience conducting rigorous evaluations of educational programs; decades of experience collaborating with education stakeholders at all levels and using education data and research to inform decision-making; and our 40-year history as an independent, objective research and consulting firm, headquartered in New Jersey are all outstanding qualifications that we bring to this partnership.

We look forward to continuing and deepening our partnership with the NJDoE as it seeks to increase the effectiveness of its schools and teachers, and to dramatically improve student achievement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Devaney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".



Len Collett  
Sr. Contract Consultant

Dell Inc.  
One Dell Way  
Round Rock, Texas 78682  
tel +1 512 728 6094  
[len\\_collett@dell.com](mailto:len_collett@dell.com)  
[www.dell.com](http://www.dell.com)

Bret Schundler  
Commissioner  
State of New Jersey  
Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

May 26, 2010

Bret,

We wish you the best of luck on obtaining the RTTT Grant for your organization. We want to convey to you our support for your goals and the initiatives set forth through RTTT.

- Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;
- Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;
- Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and
- Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.

Please know that if awarded, we do intend to provide you additional discounting for bulk purchases made through Dell in order to help you achieve your goals and sustain activities after the 3 years of the grant.



Len Collett  
Sr. Contract Consultant

New Jersey Business & Industry Association



Celebrating a Century of Service to NJ Business

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM

Melanie Willoughby  
Senior Vice President

Sara Bluhm  
Assistant Vice President  
Energy & Federal Affairs

David Brogan  
Vice President  
Environmental Policy

Dominick DiRocco, Esq.  
Assistant Vice President  
Employment & Labor Policy

Christopher Emigholz  
Director  
Education &  
Workforce Development

Arthur Maurice  
First Vice President  
Economic Development &  
Taxation

Frank Robinson  
First Vice President  
Grassroots &  
Transportation

Christine Stearns, Esq.  
Vice President  
Health & Legal Affairs

May 20, 2010

*logged* ✓

VIA FACSIMILE: 609 216-7974

The Honorable Bret Schundler  
Commissioner  
NJ Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

I am writing on behalf of New Jersey Business & Industry Association to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

*Melanie Willoughby*  
Melanie Willoughby  
Senior Vice President

# NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY CAPITAL

16-18 WEST LAFAYETTE STREET • TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08608 • PHONE: 609.989.7766 • FAX: 609.393.9401 • MAIL@NJCLF.COM

May 27, 2010

Commissioner Bret Schundler  
New Jersey Department of Education  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Via E-Mail and Regular Mail

Re: Race to the Top Application

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

New Jersey Community Capital facilitates the flow of money and knowledge to create wealth and well being in underserved communities. Since its founding in 1987, New Jersey Community Capital has committed financing for approximately 660 projects totaling nearly \$225 million in the housing, community services, and small business sectors. As a leading financier of charter school facilities, New Jersey Community Capital was awarded an \$8.15 million credit enhancement grant from the United States Department of Education. Using this grant as leverage, New Jersey Community Capital has committed to provide or participate in 31 transactions which have or will provide nearly \$55 million of financing and guaranties to support over \$100 million of charter school facilities project costs. This financing will create or sustain nearly 10,000 charter school seats in New Jersey.

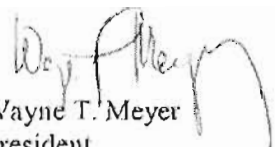
As part of its mission, New Jersey Community Capital is committed to helping provide high-quality educational opportunities and environments for all of New Jersey's students. Please let this letter express New Jersey Community Capital's support for the New Jersey Department of Education's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the United States Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that the state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

New Jersey Community Capital truly hopes that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel this state's education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,



Wayne T. Meyer  
President



logged

Simon Nynens, Chairman & CEO  
Wayside Technology Group, Inc  
Chairman

Maxine Ballen  
President & CEO

Charter Members

Deloitte & Touche LLP

Edison Venture Fund

Maloy Risk Services

KPMG LLP

Morgan Lewis

PNC Bank N.A.

Patron Members

Amper, Polliziner & Mattia, PC

Lowenstein Sandler PC

New Jersey Economic  
Development Authority

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

PSE&G

Stevens & Lee

Wachovia

WilhelmSmith & Brown

Woodcock Washburn LLP

Bret Schundler, Commissioner  
NJ Department of Education  
100 River View Plaza  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler,

I am writing on behalf of the New Jersey Technology Council to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Very truly yours,

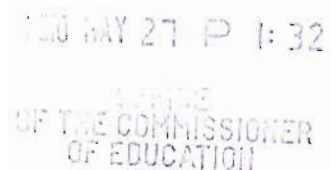
Maxine Ballen  
Founder, President & CEO

Samuel A. Delgado  
Vice President  
External Affairs



540 Broad Street, Floor 20  
Newark, NJ 07102

Phone 973 649-3339  
samuel.a.delgado@verizon.com



May 25, 2010

Bret Schundler  
Commissioner  
State of New Jersey  
Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

Verizon New Jersey, Inc. is pleased to support the New Jersey Department of Education's Virtual New Jersey (VNJ) Initiative as contained in the Race to the Top Application. Verizon New Jersey, Inc. through its statewide video franchise has committed to provide one free Internet service drop to public schools passed by our FiOs Network.

Discounted ATM and Frame Relay rates are available through 2014 to participating schools through Verizon's Access New Jersey Program to support bandwidth for online learning activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel (SAN) Delgado". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capital letters.

cc Dennis Bone  
Richard Chapkis

Honorable Bret Schundler  
Commissioner of Education  
New Jersey Department of Education  
100 River View Plaza  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

May 25, 2010

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

On behalf of Apple, I am pleased to offer our support for your *Virtual New Jersey* (VNJ) initiative as contained in the state's Race To The Top application.

This innovative pilot program will supply online learning opportunities for high-need students in resource-challenged districts that will be coordinated with teacher professional development focused on improving student achievement using 21st century teaching strategies.

Apple shares your commitment to promote digital equity through the use of laptops for middle- and high-school students who lack access to mobile classroom devices. We know from experience that technology is an effective tool to engage and inspire learners of all ages, contributing to higher levels of academic achievement and raising student aspirations for higher education and the modern workforce.

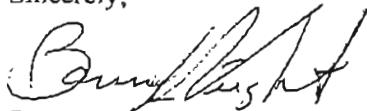
With over 30 years of experience working with schools, Apple offers educators a total solution, from hardware and software to services—including planning, implementation, professional development, digital content, learning management systems, and technical support. Our suite of digital tools in the classroom is synonymous with innovation, quality, and ease of use.

We applaud your commitment to robust professional development as a cornerstone for effective teaching. Our PD consultants are current and former educators chosen for their expertise integrating technology into learning. We focus on your learning objectives with content aligned to the ISTE National Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS-T) and based on effective design standards from the National Staff Development Council (NSDC).

To help facilitate the launch of *Virtual New Jersey*, Apple stands ready to assist the state to further the anticipated educational gains of high-need students.

Thank you for the opportunity to partner with the State of New Jersey and we look forward to helping you create 21st century learning environments that advance digital equity and raise academic achievement levels.

Sincerely,



Barry Wright  
Vice President  
Education Sales

Apple  
One Apple Loop  
Cupertino, CA 95014

T 408 996 1010  
F 408 996 6275  
www.apple.com



# Platinum Minds

Soar To Your Highest Potential

Dear Commissioner Schundler,

I am writing on behalf of Platinum Minds to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education. New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Yvette Long



Original  
5/21

Brett Schundler  
Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Education  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500

Commissioner Schundler:

Over fourteen years ago, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce established the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation, an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to workforce development. Because K-12 education is the workforce pipeline, the Chamber Foundation has invested significant resources into strategic interventions that address the business agenda in education reform.

From that perspective, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees and supporters of the Chamber Foundation, I am writing this letter to express enthusiastic support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is ambitious but achievable, and would accomplish the reforms that our state needs, all of which have been long overdue:

- Adopting rigorous academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning,
- Upgrading data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making,
- Making teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations, and
- Focusing the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Dana Egreczky  
President

# Academy for Urban Leadership Charter High School

149 Kearny Avenue  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861  
732-324-2114



May 19, 2010

Bret Schundler  
Commissioner of Education  
NJ Department of Education  
Trenton, New Jersey

I am writing on behalf of Academy for Urban Leadership Charter High School in Perth Amboy to express our support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Shirley A. Smoyak, RN, PhD, FAAN  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Academy for Urban Leadership CHS  
SMOYAK@rci.rutgers.edu  
RU Division of Continuing Studies  
55 Commercial Ave.  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
732-932-4727, fax: 732-932-4710

Logged

**ATLANTIC CAPE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

340 Court House-Dennis Road

Cape May Court House, N J 08210

May 18, 2010

Dear Secretary:

After a quarter century as a practicing attorney at the Criminal Defense Bar I switched careers to that of education because I wanted to tackle the problem of wasted young lives from the cause end and not the consequence end.

Unfortunately too many of our students are still left behind. As educators we need the tools and the plan to bring all students along into the 21<sup>st</sup> century world of global competition.

When I learned of the Obama administrations Race To The Top initiative I was thrilled because the State of new Jersey is ideally positioned to make the most out of what is being offered under this program. It promises to help each child reach the potential that her/his life contains given the nurturing and support required for growth and realization.

New Jersey has all the ingredients to implement a plan of true educational reform if given the tools to do so. Race To The Top would provide those resources.

We in New Jersey can transform our schools and our childrens' lives. This is why I support our state's reform initiative under Race to the Top. I hope all of New Jersey will join in the effort.

Sincerely,

Helen McCaffrey

FAX:609 216 7974

Dear Secretary Duncan:

As the President of Bloomfield College in New Jersey, I would like to express strong support for the Partnership to Assess College Readiness and Careers and pledge to work collaboratively with our K-12 state counterparts and our higher education colleagues across the partnership states to develop high school assessments that can serve as an indicator of readiness for non-remedial, credit-bearing, college-level coursework in mathematics and English. We value the promise of the new Common Core State Standards to improve college readiness rates of direct matriculation high school students and the vision outlined for developing a common college-ready assessment and creating a strong curriculum core that supports student readiness.

We further recognize that the diverse missions of postsecondary systems and institutions in the Partnership to Assess College Readiness Careers will determine the specific ways in which this new assessment will be used for entry level students into postsecondary education. We are, however, prepared to participate in the design, development, and standard setting process of the Partnership with the goal of using the new measure(s) as part of our course placement system once the Partnership has set the college readiness standards for the assessment(s) and we have reviewed its compatibility with our current successful program.

In the 2008-09 school year, Bloomfield College included 430 direct matriculation students. Of these direct matriculation students, 75% required at least one postsecondary remedial course. We are committed to working with the Partnership to Assess College Readiness and Careers toward ensuring that students who score college-ready on its end of high school assessments can enter credit-bearing coursework without remediation at this institution.


We are prepared to participate with the Partnership to Assess College Readiness and Careers in the following next steps:

- A collaborative and comprehensive effort by K-12 and higher education faculty and leaders across the Partnership to Assess College Readiness and Careers on test design and development.
- A coordinated effort across the consortium to design and participate in validity studies and comparisons with current placement instruments to ensure that the assessments developed are an accurate measure of college readiness.
- A thorough, research-based process to establish common achievement standards on the new assessments that signal students' preparation for entry level, credit-bearing coursework.
- Use of the assessment in all partnership states' postsecondary institutions, along with any other placement requirement established by the IHE or IHE system, as an indicator of students' readiness for placement in non-remedial, credit-bearing college-level coursework.

We strongly support further work to establish a better aligned P-12 education system that will help all of New Jersey's students graduate from high school ready for college and careers, by providing students, their parents and their teachers with clear and consistent information about what it means and what it takes to be ready for college. We further commit ourselves to work

collaboratively with our K-12 counterparts to improve associated student outreach, intervention, and academic preparation programs to ensure all students have the opportunity to successfully transition into our postsecondary system.

Thank you for providing the students in our state with the opportunity to benefit from such an important collaboration.

Division of Higher Education	
Authorized Signature: 	
Name: Richard Levao	Date: May 27, 2010
Title: President, Bloomfield College	



May 20, 2010

Bret Schundler  
Commissioner of Education  
New Jersey State Department of Education  
100 River View Plaza, P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Mr. Schundler:

I am writing on behalf of Caldwell College to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Nancy H. Blattner, Ph.D.  
President

---

Office of the President

120 Bloomfield Avenue • Caldwell, New Jersey 07006-6195  
973-618-3217 • Fax 973-618-3900 • [www.caldwell.edu](http://www.caldwell.edu)



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 14, 2010

Dr. Willa Spicer  
New Jersey Department of Education  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Dr. Spicer:

Centenary College is writing this letter expressing our intent to participate in the Race to the Top Assessment Grant Application.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Barbara-Jayne Lewthwaite  
President

Call  
Are you writing  
to express your  
support of the  
state application?

# CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

P.O. Box 1500 • College Drive • Vineland, NJ 08362-1500  
Phone: 856/691-8600, ext. 201 • Fax: 856/690-0812

105-01

Office of the President

2010 MAY 20 P 2:59  
OFFICE  
OF THE COMMISSIONER  
OF EDUCATION

May 18, 2010

Mr. Bret Schundler, Commissioner  
State of New Jersey  
Department of Education  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Schundler:


Cumberland County College is pleased to offer its wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that is tailored to the state's plan to:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

A Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.  
President

c: Richard Stepura, Ed.D., Executive County Superintendent



GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY

*A tradition of excellence...a future of success*

May 26, 2010

The Honorable Arne Duncan, Secretary  
US Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan,

On behalf of Georgian Court University, I write to express support for the Partnership to Assess College Readiness and Careers initiatives. Specifically, we endorse its willingness and intention to work in close collaboration with New Jersey institutions of higher education to develop high school assessments that will evaluate secondary students' knowledge and skill readiness for non-remedial college-level coursework in mathematics and English. This initiative, in conjunction with the alignment of P-12 school curricula with new nationally developed Common Core State Standards, will improve the rates of direct matriculation of high school graduates into credit-bearing courses in college enabling these students to transition to college more seamlessly and complete their degrees more quickly.

We are prepared to work collaboratively with our P-12 and higher education colleagues in New Jersey and across the states to:

- Design and develop assessment instruments mapped to entry-level college courses in mathematics and English;
- Design and implement validity and reliability studies to assure the assessments accomplish the goal of evaluating readiness for entry-level college courses in mathematics and English; and
- Consider the use of the assessments as part of our evaluation and placement protocols for incoming college students.

We look forward to working in collaboration across New Jersey and other states to smooth transition to college by increasing the readiness of high school graduates for college-level course work.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Kress, Ed.D.  
Dean and Professor  
School of Education

C S. Rosemary E. Jeffries, R.S.M, Ph.D, President, Georgian Court University  
Evelyn Saul Quinn, Provost, Georgian Court University



May 20, 2010

Dear Secretary Duncan:

As the Dean of the College of Education at Kean University in New Jersey, I would like to express strong support for New Jersey Department of Education's application for the *Race to the Top* competition. Our faculty pledge to work collaboratively with our PreK-12 state counterparts and our higher education colleagues across the partnership states to develop high school assessments that can serve as an indicator of readiness for non-remedial, credit-bearing, college-level coursework in mathematics and English. We value the promise of the new Common Core State Standards to improve college readiness rates of direct matriculation high school students and the vision outlined for developing a common college-ready assessment.

We further recognize that the diverse missions of postsecondary systems and institutions in the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will determine the specific ways in which these new assessments will be used. We are, however, prepared to participate in the design, development, and standard setting process of the New Jersey Department of Education with the goal of using the new measures as part of our course placement system once the NJDOE has set the college readiness standards for the assessments. We are committed to working with NJDOE toward ensuring that students who score college-ready on its end-of-high-school assessments can enter credit-bearing coursework without remediation at this institution.

We are prepared to participate with NJDOE in the following next steps:

- A collaborative and comprehensive effort by PreK-12 and higher education faculty and leaders across the state on test design and development.
- A coordinated effort across the consortium to design and participate in validity studies and comparisons with current placement instruments to ensure that the assessments developed are an accurate measure of college readiness.
- A thorough, research-based process to establish common achievement standards on the new assessments that signal students' preparation for entry level, credit-bearing coursework.
- Use of the assessments in all partnership states' postsecondary institutions, along with any other placement requirement established by the IHE or IHE system, as an indicator of students' readiness for placement in non-remedial, credit-bearing college-level coursework.

We strongly support further work to establish a better aligned P-20 education system that will help all of New Jersey's students graduate from high school ready for college and careers, by providing students, their parents and their teachers with clear and consistent information about what it means and what it takes to be ready for college. We further commit ourselves to work collaboratively with our PreK-12 counterparts to improve associated student outreach, intervention, and academic preparation programs to ensure all students have the opportunity to successfully transition into our postsecondary system.

Thank you for providing the students in our state with the opportunity to benefit from such an important collaboration.

Signatures for the state of New Jersey:

I

--	--

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Title:
--------

<b>Authorized State IHE Signature:</b>  
---

Name: Dr. Susan Polirstok	Date: 5/18/10
---------------------------	---------------

Title: Dear., College of Education, Kean University
---



**MONTCLAIR STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

Office of the President  
973-655-4212  
Fax: 973-655-7195

May 24, 2010

Commissioner Bret Schundler  
State of New Jersey  
Department of Education  
Office of the Commissioner  
100 River View Plaza  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

I am writing as President of Montclair State University to express wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that articulates important reform initiatives, including:

- Adoption of high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrading data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Enhancing teacher and school accountability for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations;  
and
- Focusing the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

A Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and has the potential to propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan A. Cole". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "C".

Susan A. Cole  
President



New Jersey Institute of  
Technology  
University Heights  
Newark, NJ 07102-1982  
973.596.3677  
973.596.6063 fax  
email:esla@njit.edu

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & LIBERAL ARTS

Office of the Dean

May 25, 2010

Commissioner Bret Schundler,  
Commissioner of Education  
100 River View Plaza  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

I am writing on behalf of the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education. The proposal aligns closely with NJIT's mission and ongoing efforts with respect to improving education and fostering economic growth for New Jersey and the country.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Fadi P. Deek  
Dean and Professor of Information Systems, Information Technology  
and Mathematical Sciences

# TeacherPrep

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PROGRAM IN TEACHER PREPARATION

41 William Street, Princeton, NJ 08540  
Tel 609-258-3336 | Fax 609-258-4527 | [www.princeton.edu/teacher](http://www.princeton.edu/teacher)

May 25, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

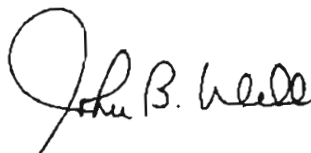
I am writing on behalf of the Program in Teacher Preparation at Princeton University to express our support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,



John B. Webb, Ed.D.  
Director



Office of the President  
2032 Lawrenceville Road  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-3001  
Tel: 908-527-5001  
Fax: 908-527-5131  
mrozanski@rider.edu  
www.rider.edu

May 25, 2010

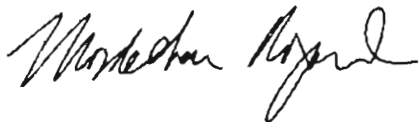
Dear Commissioner Schundler,

I am writing on behalf of Rider University to express our support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

<b>Institution of Higher Education:</b>	
Authorized Signature: 	
Name: Mordechai Rozanski	Date: May 25, 2010
Title: President	



*Logged in*

May 19, 2010

Commissioner Bret Schundler  
New Jersey Department of Education  
Judge Robert L. Carter Building  
100 River View Plaza  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Shundler:

I am writing on behalf of Rowan University's College of Education to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Sharp, Ph.D.

Dean



Vice President for Continuing Studies – Old Queens Building – 83 Somerset Street – New Brunswick, NJ 08901

May 25, 2010

Bret Schundler  
Commissioner  
State of New Jersey  
Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

The Division of Continuing Studies at Rutgers is pleased to support the New Jersey State Department of Education's Virtual New Jersey online learning proposal in its Race To The Top application.

The Division of Continuing Studies at Rutgers is the unit at the University primarily responsible for the deployment of 21<sup>st</sup> Century online and virtual teaching and learning strategies. These responsibilities include the development of staff personnel and extension of best practice pedagogy in coursework, quality assurance, technical support, and learning outcomes assessments.

Accordingly, we are uniquely poised to provide support to the NJDOE regarding online learning opportunities for high need students in districts participating in this program. In addition, we can also support the design and implementation of professional development for teachers that focuses on improving student learning using 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching strategies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raphael J. Caprio".

Raphael J. Caprio, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Continuing Studies  
Professor of Public Administration

*DeLisi*

May 21, 2010

Mr. Bret Schundler, Commissioner of Education  
New Jersey Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Mr. Schundler,

I am writing on behalf of the Rutgers Graduate School of Education to express our support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education. New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable one that accomplishes several important reforms. It helps the state to:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments that should help improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to track graduates of teacher preparation programs to document the success of our strongest programs; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

The Rutgers Graduate School of Education prides itself on preparing excellent teachers with a firm preparation in their subject matter and a strong capacity to individualize education to meet the needs of all learners. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Department on developing a continuum of professional learning that will link pre-service preparation with the continuing professional development of teachers. Such a continuum should prove extremely beneficial to New Jersey's teachers.

Sincerely yours,

*Richard DeLisi*

Richard De Lisi, Ph.D.  
Dean & Professor



Office of the Chancellor  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
University Heights  
Room 590, 123 Washington Street  
Newark, NJ 07102-3094

Tel: 973-353-5541  
Fax: 973-353-1048

Commissioner Bret Schundler  
New Jersey State Department of Education  
100 River View PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

May 24, 2010

RE: Letter of Support for Race to the Top Grant

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

I am writing on behalf of Rutgers-Newark, The State University of New Jersey to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven J. Diner".

Steven J. Diner  
Chancellor



*logged*

Office of the President  
Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., President

Ph: 609.652.4521  
Fax: 609.652.4945

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

May 19, 2010

The Honorable Bret Schundler  
Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

I am writing on behalf of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey to express our support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top Award from the U.S. Department of Education. We believe positively this proposal will positively impact teaching and learning for all children in New Jersey.

New Jersey's proposal is ambitious, achievable and accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top Award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr.  
President

/bkj

School of Education

Ph: 609.652.4688  
Fax: 609.626.5528



*logged 5/21*  
PO Box 195  
Jimmie Leeds Road  
Pomona NJ 08240  
www.stockton.edu

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

May 20, 2010

Dr. Bret Schundler  
NJ Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Dr. Schundler,

I am writing on behalf of the School of Education at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "HKO", written over a horizontal line.

Harvey Kesselman, Ed.D.  
Dean of the School of Education

# WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE DEAN  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
1600 VALLEY ROAD • P.O. BOX 920 • WAYNE, NEW JERSEY 07474-0920  
973.720.2137 FAX 973.720.3467 • WWW.WPUNJ.EDU

May 20, 2010

Bret Schundler, New Jersey Commissioner of Education  
New Jersey Department of Education  
100 River View Plaza  
P. O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler,

William Paterson University wants to express its wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

As one of the largest producers of teachers in our state, this application is of utmost importance to the College of Education at William Paterson University as well as to the entire educational system in New Jersey.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ana Maria Schuhmann  
Interim Dean, College of Education  
William Paterson University of New Jersey



**MONMOUTH  
UNIVERSITY**  
where leaders look forward™

School of Education  
Office of the Dean

May 24, 2010

Commissioner Bret Schundler  
NJ Department of Education  
100 River View Plaza  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

I am writing on behalf of The School of Education at Monmouth University to express our support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that will accomplish the reforms and outcomes that would highly benefit our P-12 students and schools:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction that focuses on student learning and data-based decision making
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating multiple measures of student achievement into their evaluations
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve student achievement.

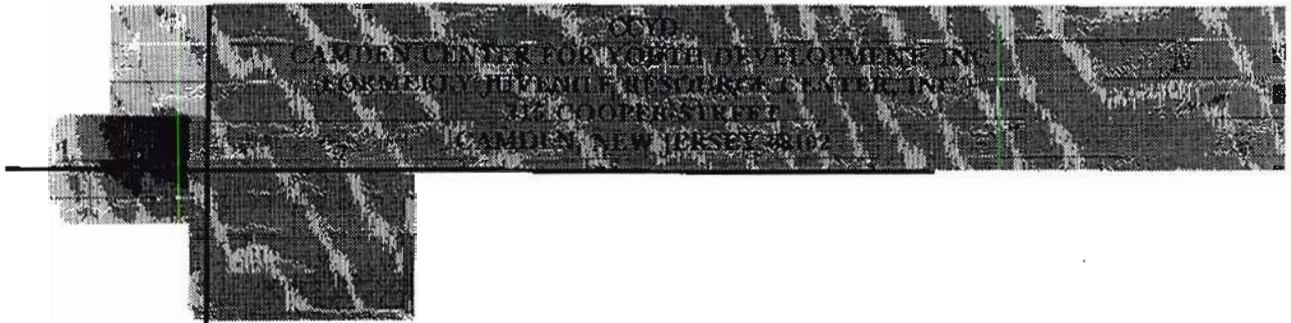
We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success that will prepare our P-12 students for global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Romeo".

Dr. Lynn Romeo, Dean  
School of Education  
732-571-7518

2010



DR. RICHARD P. SHANK,  
PRESIDENT  
  
DR. STELLA J. HORTON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
  
MR. JERRY JACK  
  
MR. STEPHEN G. JONES  
  
REV. FLOYD L. WHITE, III  
  
MR. FELIX L. JAMES, ESQ.  
  
MS. PHYLLIS FONYILLE  
  
MR. RHANFIM DOUGLAS, ESQ.

\*MR. KLAN EDMONDSON  
NEXT GENERATION BOARD  
MEMBER

\*UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

May 25, 2010

Commissioner Bret Schundler  
NJ Department of Education  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

I am writing on behalf of the Camden Center for Youth Development, Inc. to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stella J. Horton  
Executive Director

**WE TEACH SKILLS FOR SUCCESS!**  
PHONE: 856-863-4060  
FAX: 863-4773



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

# CITY OF OCEAN CITY

AMERICA'S GREATEST FAMILY RESORT

May 18, 2010

MAY 18 12:13  
OFFICE  
OF THE COMMISSIONER  
OF EDUCATION

**Via Telefax & Regular Mail**

Bret Schundler, Commissioner of Education  
Office of the Commissioner  
100 River View Plaza  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

**RE: New Jersey's Proposal for Race to the Top**

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

I am writing to express my unqualified support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top Award from the United States Department of Education. I have heard your presentation and read the literature describing the proposed program and I believe it is a tremendous opportunity to address the educational needs of our State.

The program, as I understand it, would adopt high academic standards which would be coordinated with a curriculum spine which would utilize interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning throughout the State. It would also upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making. Importantly, it would make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into teacher and school evaluations. Finally, it would focus necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools in our State to dramatically improve their results.

I am hopeful and confident that the United States Department of Education will grant to New Jersey a Race to the Top Award which will help you and the entire educational community support the implementation of New Jersey's education reform plan moving our educational system forward as a model of success.

I commend you for the leadership that you have provided on this important issue and I have confidence that you will bring this process to a successful conclusion.

Bret Schundler, Commissioner of Education  
May 18, 2010  
Page Two

---

On behalf of the Ocean City community, I thank you and compliment you for your dedication.

Very truly yours,

*Sal Perillo*

Sal Perillo  
Mayor  
[mayor@ocnj.us](mailto:mayor@ocnj.us)

SP:ac

cc: Senator Jeff VanDrew  
Assemblyman Nelson Albano  
Assemblyman Matt Milam  
Linda MacIntyre, City Clerk



# New Jersey Council of Education

AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO ENHANCING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE  
OF THE COMMISSIONER  
OF EDUCATION

## OFFICERS 2009-2010

Richard G. Bozza  
President

Judith Rattner  
Vice President

Terry Vanaman Cole  
Treasurer

Thomas Barnard  
Secretary

Aaron Graham  
Past President

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Stephen Blake

Janet Holdcraft

Deborah Evans

Vincent Przybylinski

## PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR

Charles Ivory

## CONSULTANT

Walter Quint

## MAILING ADDRESS

New Jersey Council of Education  
345 Plainfield Avenue  
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

[www.njcoe.com](http://www.njcoe.com)

May 24, 2010

Mr. Bret Schundler  
Commissioner of Education  
New Jersey Department of Education  
100 Riverview Complex  
Post Office Box 500  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

The New Jersey Council of Education was established nearly 125 years ago as a "cadre of eminent educators" to promote the cause of public education in New Jersey. The Council provides a forum for thoughtful discussion of educational issues and the corresponding social, economic and political conditions and policies which set the framework for implementing effective education.

The Council remains a statewide organization today which encompasses education at all levels including elementary, secondary, and college. It brings together professionals with the roles of school administrator, college professor, and Department of Education emissary. It establishes an environment where members who have diverse backgrounds and experiences can participate in discussions of mutual interest and concern.

I am writing to invite you to be the keynote speaker at the October 8, 2010 meeting of the New Jersey Council of Education. New Jersey's Commissioner of Education has traditionally served as a keynote speaker at a meeting of the Council. The Council Officers and Executive Committee members believe that the fall meeting is a perfect time for you to speak about your vision for New Jersey education and the reforms which you will pursuing.

The meeting agenda includes networking at 9 a.m. with the business meeting beginning at 10 a.m. We have tentatively allocated one hour for your presentation and discussion with Council members at approximately 11 a.m. We anticipate approximately 125 members to be present at the meeting which will be held at the Bridgewater Manor located at 1251 Route 202/206, Bridgewater, NJ 08807.

We would be pleased to have you join us for lunch following the meeting if your schedule permits you to do so.

# NEW JERSEY READING ASSOCIATION

STATE COUNCIL OF THE IRA & AFFILIATE OF NJEA

Legislation & Professional Standards Committee

Dr. Janice Lake Betts, Chair

217 Marshallville Rd., Woodbine, NJ 08270

May 24, 2010

Dear Members of the New Jersey State Department of Education:

I am writing on behalf of New Jersey Reading Association to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs: As literacy educators, we support the highest quality of instruction that encompasses the following:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning with an emphasis on the learning environment;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into annual reviews of schools; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness. We offer our professional expertise in shaping this reform effort in the State of New Jersey. Our belief is that every child is a reader and working together we can make the necessary changes to accomplish these goals.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Janice Lake Betts, New Jersey Reading Association

# International Education Foundation

2040 Briggs Road, Suite C, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 856.235.5222 Fax 856.235.2522

*Logged*

Bret Schundler  
Commission of Education  
New Jersey Department of Education  
Trenton, New Jersey

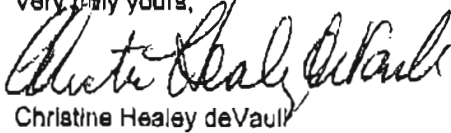
I am writing on behalf of the International Education Foundation to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Very truly yours,



Christine Healey deVaul  
Executive Director  
International Education Foundation



# DEMOCRATS

for EDUCATION REFORM

May 25, 2010

Dear Commissioner Schundler,

I am writing to express Democrats for Education Reform – New Jersey's strong support of New Jersey's Race to the Top application to the U.S. Department of Education. Race to the Top offers an unprecedented opportunity for New Jersey to earn up to \$400 million in greatly needed federal funding while pushing progressive education reform to ensure a better future for our children. New Jersey's plan promises to place the state in a competitive position. And importantly, the plan offers new hope for the state's most underserved students, who we have consistently failed with a broken system.

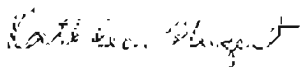
The proposed reforms in New Jersey's application, which I understand encapsulate your vision for the state's education system regardless of a Race to the Top win, are essential if we ever hope to move toward a system that unquestionably provides all children with a high quality education. Critical components of the application include:

- Using effective data systems to track student achievement and growth
- Revising teacher tenure laws to ensure recipients are meeting students' academic needs
- Linking at least 51% of teacher and school leader evaluations to student achievement
- Implementing merit pay, based on student achievement data including growth, to reward great teachers and school leadership
- Incenting highly effective teachers to enter classrooms of underperforming districts where students need them most
- Honestly assessing failing schools and executing transformational plans to break the cycle of failure

The proposed reforms in the Race to the Top application will move New Jersey in the right direction. Democrats for Education Reform – New Jersey is calling on the state's leaders to take action to implement the plan quickly. We look forward to ongoing discussions and passage of all necessary legislation to support execution. We also look forward to additional reforms that would build on the plan's solid foundation, notably the efficient use of public school space, including the provision of unused space to public charter schools.

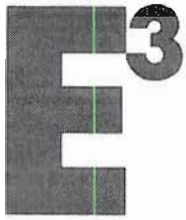
New Jersey has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring true education reform to our state, and it begins with this application and your continued leadership and drive to do what's best for our children.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Nugent  
New Jersey State Director

*Logged*



## Excellent Education for Everyone

45 Academy Street, Suite 501  
Newark, New Jersey 07102-2900  
Phone: 973.273.7217 Fax: 973.273.7222  
Website: [www.NJE3.org](http://www.NJE3.org)  
*Offices in Camden*

Dear Commissioner Schundler,

I am writing on behalf of Excellent Education for Everyone (E3), to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derrell Bradford', written in a cursive style.

Derrell Bradford  
Executive Director  
E3



*logged*

**New Jersey Charter School Resource Center**  
Center for Effective School Practices

---

May 19, 2010

Commissioner Bret Schundler  
Office of the Commissioner  
100 River View Plaza  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to support the efforts of the State of New Jersey in procuring Race to the Top funds from the United States Department of Education. As the Director of the New Jersey Charter School Resource Center at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (Rutgers University—CESP), I am inspired by your ambitious plan to position New Jersey as a national leader in education reform.

New Jersey's proposal complemented by your proven leadership in education reform will enable the state to realize the large-scale transformation that our state education system so desperately needs.

I support the state plan to:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

Without reservation, I support the bid of the State of New Jersey for the Race to the Top grant with complete confidence that the proposed initiatives will thrive and exceed expectations with your leadership.

Yours truly,

*Heather R. Ngoma*

Heather R. Ngoma



An off-campus division of the Graduate School of Education  
30 Cottontail Lane, Suite 110 ♦ Somerset, NJ 08873 ♦ Tel. (732) 564-9087 ♦ Fax (732) 564-9099  
<http://www.njcharterschools.org>



59 Lincoln Park, Suite 300  
Newark, NJ 07102  
973-793-2285  
973-795-2203 fax  
ncsfund.org

May 25, 2010

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary, United States Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

The Newark Charter School Fund (NCSF) strongly supports the State of New Jersey's application for the second round of the Race to the Top grant competition. Since 2008, NCSF has made investments to support the quality and sustainability of charter schools in Newark, New Jersey. Moreover, NCSF is dedicated to creating a thriving public school sector in Newark that prepares all students for college and work.

NCSF was pleased to partner with the State on this application by providing research on best practices and emerging innovations. Commissioner Schundler and his team have incorporated this research into the application as well as the Commissioner's education reform agenda. As a result, both New Jersey's application and education reform agenda include ambitious yet achievable reforms that will improve outcomes for our students.

In particular, in Newark two significant challenges to charter school growth are recruiting teachers and leaders and accessing safe and affordable facilities. These challenges are often shared by the Newark school district as well as other urban school districts. The State seeks to confront these challenges in its proposal. Furthermore, the new incentive and accountability structures included in New Jersey's proposal will help to address additional challenges that schools and districts face.

In New Jersey, the Race to the Top has helped to spark extensive dialogue about education reform, and this dialogue appears likely to generate policy changes in upcoming months. Race to the Top funding will help to ensure that these reforms become a reality and have meaningful impacts for students in New Jersey, particularly in urban areas like Newark.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mashea M. Ashton".

Mashea M. Ashton  
CEO, Newark Charter School Fund



4365 Route 7 South  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
P 609.419.0404

May 24, 2010

Dear Commissioner Schundler,

I am writing on behalf of Junior Achievement of New Jersey to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education. Our organization is in complete agreement that 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are vitally important to improving the quality of education in New Jersey and better preparing our future workforce. Examples of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are as follows:

- Global awareness/ financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy/ civic literacy
- Learning & innovation skills - creativity and innovation skills/ critical thinking and problem solving skills/ communication & collaboration skills
- Life & career skills - flexibility & adaptability/ initiative & self direction/ social skills/ accountability/ leadership & responsibility skills

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Milone".

Catherine Milone  
President



New Jersey Catholic Conference  
149 North Warren Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608  
609-989-1120

*Let's go!*

May 20, 2010

The Honorable Bret Schundler  
Commissioner of Education  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

On behalf of the New Jersey Catholic Conference, representing the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, I wish to express our support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the United States Department of Education. We write this letter as a result of the number of Catholic children attending public schools in New Jersey. However, we continue to express our disappointment and concern that nonpublic school students are excluded from the Race to the Top program as a result of the decision of President Barack Obama and Secretary Arne Duncan.

We believe that your proposal for adopting high academic standards tied to a curriculum spine, upgrading data systems to improve data-based decision making, and accountability for teachers and schools for student achievement represent benchmarks for success. Furthermore, we believe that the entire vision of education which you have articulated over the last several months, with the clear and forceful support of Governor Chris Christie, will result in an improved public education system in New Jersey. We do, however, ask for your personal support at the federal level for equitable participation of nonpublic school teachers and students in future programs, particularly the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind.

We wish you the best of luck throughout the application process. If I personally may be of any additional assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call me.

With every personal best wish, permit me to remain

Very cordially yours

*George V. Corwell*

George V. Corwell, Ed.D.  
Director: Office of Education

GVC:ac

*emailed Communication*

Representing the Archdiocese of Newark, Diocese of Camden, Diocese of Metuchen,  
Diocese of Paterson, Diocese of Trenton, Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic and  
Our Lady of Deliverance Syrian Catholic Diocese

*Logged*

# **viking** group

**Robert T. Healey**  
Chairman

May 19, 2010

**Marine**  
Viking Yacht Company  
Viking Sport Cruisers, Inc.  
Viking Yachting Center, Inc.  
Viking Yacht Services Center  
Atlantic Marine Electronics, Inc.  
Palm Beach Yachters, Inc.  
Maritime Financial Services, Inc.

**Real Estate**  
Viking Associates

**Insurance**  
International Maritime Insurance Co.

**Energy**  
Viking International Resources Co.

**Media and Information Technology**  
Viking Technology Solutions, Inc.  
Viking Communications, Inc.

**Financial**  
Viking Investment Banking Group

**Mr. Bret Schundler**  
**Commissioner of Education**  
**NJ Department of Education**  
**Trenton, New Jersey**

Dear Mr. Schundler:

I am writing on behalf of the Catholic School Development Program, a program of the International Education Foundation of which I am the Founder, to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our State needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Very truly yours,



Robert T. Healey



May 26, 2010

Bret Schundler  
Commissioner  
State of New Jersey  
Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

Virtual High School Global Consortium (VHS Inc.) is pleased to support the New Jersey State Department of Education's Virtual New Jersey online learning proposal in its Race To The Top application.

Virtual High School is a non-profit organization partnering with schools to provide high-quality online education for students and 21<sup>st</sup> century professional development for teachers. Currently over 650 schools participate in the VHS collaborative and approximately 13,000 students from 32 states and 61 international schools take VHS courses.

Accordingly, we are uniquely poised to provide support to the NJDOE regarding online learning opportunities for high need students in districts participating in this program. In addition, we can also support the design and implementation of professional development for teachers that focus on improving student learning using 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching strategies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz R. Pape". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Liz R. Pape  
President  
Virtual High School, Inc.



66 Morris Avenue  
Springfield, NJ 07081

Phone: 973-376-0066  
Fax: 973-376-0766  
Web: [www.njgca.org](http://www.njgca.org)

2010 MAY 27 P 1:32

OFFICE  
OF THE COMMISSIONER  
OF EDUCATION

May 21, 2010

Bret Schundler  
Commissioner of Education  
NJ Department of Education  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Mr. Schundler,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter to endorse New Jersey's application to compete for a Race to the Top Award from the U.S. Department of Education. My organization represents over 1500 Small Business employers that are thirsting for a fresh direction in New Jersey Public Education.

My members operate gasoline service stations and auto repair shops all across NJ. The corner gasoline service station is the quintessential small business of America. My members have sought to be good stewards of the community and have encouraged many local high school and college students by giving them their first opportunity to be employed. These Small Business owners have themselves been teachers and mentors to many of the community's young people. For far too long they have had to train young people to do fundamental tasks of the trade. Over the years it became clear that elementary education skills were seriously deficient in efforts to train young employees for entry level positions.

Today even pumping gas requires basic reading skills and math abilities. Sophisticated computerized pumps and environmental monitoring systems must be understood and operated properly in order to maintain even mediocre performance in a "gas station". I often ask educators, "If someone does not possess the basic skills necessary to pump gas, then how is it possible for that person to ever be employed in an occupation with any degree of competence?"

Learning of President Obama's initiative called *Race to the Top*, has finally created some hope that ALL Public Education Systems will begin a serious competition to elevate students to a superior level of education and knowledge. Motivating educators to excel is long overdue. Providing educators the tools necessary to excel is a commitment that is also long overdue. New Jersey's application has impressed me because it does both, and continues beyond.

The idea of creating Master Teachers gives great hope to the Small Business Community that one day reliable and competent young employees may be readily available, and easily recruited from New Jersey's High Schools and Colleges.

New Jersey's Department of Education has crafted an exciting application that marries all aspects of an ambitious and futuristic Public Education System.

The goal of making New Jersey's High School graduates both College and Career Ready is worthy and achievable.

Identifying and assessing students will measure their readiness to apply for entry level positions in the workforce. New Jersey's proposal to have Stakeholder involvement is a creative means to determine just how effective education reforms have worked in order to achieve the goal of "College and Career Ready." The Small Business community is prepared to partner with you and is an eager Stakeholder.

Competition and incentive are ingredients that have made entrepreneurship and Small Business thrive in New Jersey. New Jersey's application to compete for *Race to the Top* funds will inject into education the same ingredients that have made businesses of all sizes a generator of the prosperity we enjoy as a nation and as a state.

Generally the lowest performing schools of New Jersey can be found in economically deprived regions. New Jersey's application for *Race to the Top* includes a focus that will dramatically improve the results among those schools that have not performed well. Imagine the economic empowerment that young people can achieve once the level of their education improves in these geographic regions of our state.

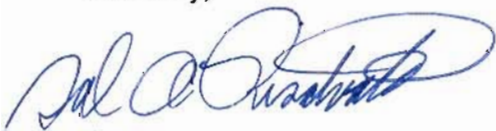
I mentioned earlier that employees that struggle in entry level jobs because they lack the proper fundamentals of education are doomed to a life of hardship and failure. However, I have members that operate auto repair shops that require technicians who possess extremely high math and reading skills. Computer systems that control virtually every system of today's automobile, and the sophisticated equipment required to fix them must be worked on with extreme competence. An excellent education in fundamental skills like math and reading are imperative.

Many years ago I was one of those who operated a gasoline service station. I was frustrated to have seemingly nice high school students unable to perform even the most menial of tasks. This caused me to visit the educators that were responsible for teaching my employees the skills I had determined were seriously lacking. Their unwillingness to cooperate with me or even discuss problems with me made me feel as if these educators were incapable or unwilling to teach with excellence or enthusiasm.

I would have loved to have an education system in place back then that would have motivated and rewarded the teachers I dealt with to becoming Masters of their trade. Years later I am confident that New Jersey's application to be awarded a *Race to the Top* grant will in fact create and develop many of our educators into Masters.

I truly hope that a *Race to the Top* award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness. My entire organization and I are rooting for your success.

Sincerely,



Sal Risalvato  
Executive Director



*Social Skills that Shape Futures  
and Prevent Bullying*

---

**Cool Kind Kid**  
A NJ Non-Profit Corporation

17 W. 8th Street  
Ocean City, NJ 08226  
Tel: 609-398-1949  
Fax: 609-938-0424  
1-866-KID-KIND (1-866-543-5463)  
[www.TannersManners.com](http://www.TannersManners.com)  
[www.CoolKindKid.com](http://www.CoolKindKid.com)  
[bgilmour@CoolKindKid.com](mailto:bgilmour@CoolKindKid.com)

Dear Sirs:

I am writing on behalf of Cool Kind Kid, A NJ Non-Profit Corporation, to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

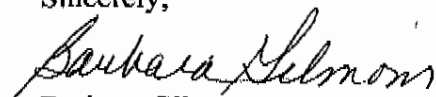
- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

[We are the creators and developers of social skills, character values, and anti-bullying curriculum materials for early elementary students. From successful pilot studies and feedback from districts using our programs, we have seen changed behavior as kids learn social skills tools that proactively address bullying and violence issues. Recent research is supporting the need for "social competence training" to make the positive changes in kids' behavior to both address bullying, and to secure their successful futures.

Through award-winning music, fun activities, and teacher-friendly materials, we are seeing kids reject bullying and being bullied. Our programs, under the banner of *Tanner's Manners: Be a "Cool Kind Kid,"* are helping kids learn that "the *kind* kid is the *cool* kid, not the bully." As we redefine "cool," kids are seeing that they can be both cool *and* kind.]

Sincerely,

  
Barbara Gilmour  
Executive Director



May 24, 2010

Commissioner Bret Schundler  
Department of Education  
State of New Jersey  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

On behalf of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce, I want to express our support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education. The competitive world we live in requires that we maximize the ability of every student to succeed during their K-12 experience. New Jersey's proposal is ambitious and achievable and it provides necessary reforms that will drive data based decisions, increased accountability and improved educational outcomes including:

- The adoption of high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Data systems upgrades to directly improve instruction and provide real information that can assist in evaluating educational impacts and best practices;
- Increased accountability for teachers and schools through quantifiable measures of student achievement;
- A new focus on providing the talents and skills needed to assist the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results including teacher bonuses;

Although we have pockets of educational achievement and success across our state, far too many of our students are not ready for college and they do not have the skills that employers expect.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan. We owe a future of opportunity and hope to every student in our state and we cannot be proud of our current system which leaves so many children ill prepared for the demanding marketplace they will face.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul", written in a cursive style.

Paul A. Boudreau  
President

# OCEAN CITY REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce AND VISITORS SERVICES



May 19, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

**Michele Gillian**  
Executive Director

**OFFICERS**

**President**  
**Scott Halliday**

**First Vice President**  
**Brian Broadley**

**Second Vice President**  
**Tom Axomando**

**Second Vice President**  
**Cricket Frank**

**Second Vice President**  
**Glenn Losch**

**Second Vice President**  
**William McMahon, Jr.**

**Second Vice President**  
**William McMahon III**

**Second Vice President**  
**Phillip P. Perri, Jr.**

**Second Vice President**  
**Skip Tolomeo**

**Secretary**  
**Kim Davidson**

**Treasurer**  
**Robert H. Adams**

**Immediate  
Past President**  
**Gary Jessel**


I am writing on behalf of Ocean City Regional Chamber of Commerce to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

  
**Scott Halliday**  
President

16 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Ocean City, New Jersey 08226

(609) 399-1412 • Fax (609) 398-3932



May 20, 2010

Commissioner Bret Schundler  
Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler,

I am writing on behalf of The Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Michele N. Siekerka, Esq.  
President and CEO



**BURLINGTON COUNTY**  
**Chamber of Commerce**  
*The Voice of Business*

T: 856-439-2520 100 TECHNOLOGY WAY  
F: 856-439-2523 SUITE 110  
MT. LAUREL, NJ 08054  
www.bccoc.com E: bccoc@bccoc.com

May 24, 2010

The Honorable Brett Schundler  
Commissioner, Department of Education  
State of New Jersey  
100 Riverview Plaza  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

The Burlington County Chamber of Commerce wholeheartedly supports New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education. New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,



Kristi M. Howell-Ikeda  
President / CEO

# WARREN COUNTY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



June 25, 2010

Dear Commissioner Schundler,

I am writing on behalf of the Warren County Regional Chamber of Commerce to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education. Our members are excited to see the vision that our state is giving to meet the needs of our children through this proposal.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.
- Work on consolidation and shared-services to reduce costs and improving efficiencies.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Goltz, IOM

President/CEO

Visit us at: [www.warrencountychamber.org](http://www.warrencountychamber.org)



P.O. Box 74  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210  
(609) 465-7181  
Fax: (609) 465-5017  
www.capemaycountychamber.com  
email: info@cmccofc.com

May 24, 2010

Mr. Norris Clark  
NJ Department of Education  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Norris:

On behalf of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, I am pleased to express our support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

The students of today are our employees, business owners, care givers, teachers, and elected officials of tomorrow. The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce has a long standing vested interest in assuring that our students are offered the opportunity and skills needed to prepare them for the work force.

Please keep us informed regarding the success of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vicki T. Clark".

Vick T. Clark, IOM  
President

*The mission of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce is to be the voice of the business community by promoting tourism and economic development through legislative advocacy, marketing services, networking opportunities and educational programs for member businesses.*



30 W. Lafayette Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
609-392-8899/609-396-6571  
[njfc@njfoodcouncil.com](mailto:njfc@njfoodcouncil.com)

May 24, 2010

Commissioner Bret Schundler  
Department of Education  
PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Schundler:

On behalf of the New Jersey Food Council (NJFC), we write in support of New Jersey's application for a *Race to the Top* award from the US Department of Education.

The NJFC represents the alliance of food retailers and their supplier partners, with total sales of over \$100 billion a year in New Jersey. Our industry requires a workforce with a solid educational background in order to succeed in this global and technology based economy. In order to have a prepared labor force, we need to ensure our education system is successful. This is why the NJFC supports the educational reforms proposed under the *Race to the Top* application.

New Jersey's proposal is both ambitious and achievable. The needed reforms it offers will bring high academic standards tied directly to the curriculum; improve teacher reviews and performance; upgrade our ability to track student progress; and attract great teaching talent into our most at-risk schools. The NJ Food Council and its members truly believe that being honored with a *Race to the Top* award will propel New Jersey's education system forward towards greater success.

Should you wish to discuss our support for New Jersey's application further, please do not hesitate to contact us. We wish you the best during this competitive application process.

Sincerely,

Jim McCaffrey  
Chairman

Phil Scaduto  
Vice Chairman

Linda Doherty  
President



May 19, 2010

Mr. Bret Schundler  
Commissioner Education  
NJ Department of Education  
Trenton, New Jersey 08650

**FAX: 609-216-7974 Attention: Jennifer**

I am writing on behalf of United Neighbors Improving Today's Equality (U.N.I.T.E.) to express our wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a Race to the Top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

We truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Rev. Glenn J. Wilson,  
President of U.N.I.T.E.

Cc: James Waters, President Lakewood-Ocean County Chapter of NAACP  
File



COUNTY of CAPE MAY  
RITA MARIE FULGINITI, COUNTY CLERK  
JO ANN HUNT  
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK



Location:  
7 North Main Street  
Cape May Court House  
New Jersey 08210

Telephone: (609) 465-1010 [ ] Fax: (609) 465-8625  
E-mail: coclerk@co.cape-may.nj.us  
Website: www.capemaycountygov.net

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 5000  
Cape May Court House  
New Jersey 08210-5000

FROM: RITA MARIE FULGINITI, CAPE MAY COUNTY CLERK *Rmf*  
RE: SUPPORT FOR NJ'S PROPOSAL FOR RACE TO THE TOP  
DATE: MAY 24, 2010

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for New Jersey's proposal for a **Race to the Top award** from the U.S. Department of Education.

New Jersey's proposal is an ambitious and achievable proposal that accomplishes the reforms that our state needs:

- Adopt high academic standards tied directly to a curriculum spine, with both interim and formative assessments as tools to improve teaching and learning;
- Upgrade data systems to directly improve instruction and data-based decision making;
- Make teachers and schools more accountable for student achievement by incorporating quantifiable measures of student achievement into their evaluations; and
- Focus the necessary talent and skills on the lowest performing schools to dramatically improve results.

I truly hope that a Race to the Top award will support the implementation of New Jersey's Education Reform Plan and propel our education system into a model of success and global competitiveness.

/rmf

# CourierPostOnline.com

FROM SOUTH JERSEY TO YOU

## DOE wise to pursue Race to the Top

May 21, 2010

Federal program to fund innovation in schools would help with needed reforms in New Jersey.

Every president tries to extend a hand to local public schools across the country and improve student performance. President Barack Obama is doing so through his Race to the Top program, a \$4 billion initiative that will send extra federal money to states that employ innovative new techniques for charting and improving student performance.

For New Jersey, up to \$400 million would be available, and the state is applying for the money -- this time without opposition from the state's largest teachers union and with full support from the Legislature.

School districts need to sign on by Tuesday, when the state must have its preliminary application completed. As of Thursday, only 22 districts out of more than 600 in the state had returned their memorandums of understanding.

We strongly encourage superintendents, school board presidents and local teachers union leaders across South Jersey to complete the memorandum of understanding and return it to the state Department of Education before Tuesday. New Jersey's Race to the Top application proposes several worthwhile reforms in line with Obama's goals of improving standards and student assessment, developing better data systems to chart student performance, measuring the performance of teachers and administrators and turning around chronically troubled schools through radical changes or closing them.

Some of New Jersey's declared goals that we think make the state worthy of receiving a Race to the Top grant:

Investment in technology to improve school district data systems.

Improving teacher and principal evaluations by establishing a state framework that bases at least half of the evaluation score on student achievement

and high quality teaching and leadership practices.

Changing how tenure is granted to teachers so that it is based more on classroom effectiveness, rather than just time elapsed in the job.

Merit pay -- good teachers who demonstrate a clear ability to raise student performance levels would get a bonus. Half of the bonus pool would be apportioned to individual teachers or teacher teams, the other half would go to schools for locally determined distribution to teachers.

Bonuses and job security for top teachers to go to struggling schools where good teachers are needed. Top teachers could leave their suburban districts for a year or two to teach in Camden or another troubled district for higher pay. They would be guaranteed the ability to return to their suburban district and not lose their tenure or seniority.

The goals Democratic President Obama has set forth in Race to the Top and Republican New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie have set forth for improving education, particularly in urban areas, are amazingly similar. There's a recognition that, with failing schools, major changes are needed -- smaller learning communities, charter schools, better teachers, etc. Race to the Top is program designed to foster such change. We're glad New Jersey is applying for the grant and we urge local school officials to help with the bid by submitting their memorandums of understanding before Tuesday.

Advertisement



**Mom Dilemma #36:**  
Your daughter insists on wearing her princess costume to the grocery store. Allow it or not?

YES, at least she's dressed!

NO, I have some rules!

momslime.com

Print Powered By  Format Dynamics

# APP.com

## Support Christie, Schundler in pursuit of NJ education reform

AN ASBURY PARK PRESS EDITORIAL • May 10, 2010

Gov. Chris Christie and Bret Schundler, his commissioner of education, have a sweeping vision for improving the quality of education in New Jersey — one that would benefit all of the state's students and reward the state's best teachers. Their common-sense reform agenda deserves bipartisan support.

On Thursday, in a meeting with the Asbury Park Press editorial board, Schundler unveiled some of the reforms in broad strokes. Many dovetail with New Jersey's forthcoming application for the second round of the Obama administration's "Race to the Top" education reform grants.

Many of Schundler's ideas should have resonance with urban parents fed up with their child being trapped in failing, substandard and wastefully expensive schools year after year, and with any parent who feels the school system has failed to help their child reach his or her full potential.

### Quality education hinges on quality teachers

An almost blindingly obvious fact that seems to elude so many is one Schundler repeatedly emphasizes: that study after study confirms that the key to quality education is quality teaching. Many of his proposed reforms, consequently, focus on working to recruit, reward and retain the best teachers.

Among the items on Schundler's reform "To Do" list:

Establish a merit pay system. The best teachers should be rewarded when their students excel or show dramatic improvement.

Rewrite tenure rules. The tenure system must be changed to allow school districts to weed out poor performers.

Develop ongoing in-house training for teachers. Techniques matter. Average teachers can be

transformed into good ones with the proper guidance.

Establish a centralized database where school, teacher and student progress can be quantified.

Broaden the pool of those who may be considering teaching as a career.

Many of Schundler's proposed reforms are remarkably similar to the ideas found in the Obama administration's "Race to the Top" fact sheet. Among its goals: "Designing and implementing rigorous standards and high-quality assessments (and) attracting and keeping great teachers and leaders in America's classrooms, by expanding effective support to teachers and principals; reforming and improving teacher preparation; revising teacher evaluation, compensation, and retention policies to encourage and reward effectiveness . . . (and) supporting data systems that inform decisions and improve instruction . . . assessing and using data to drive instruction, and making data more accessible to key stakeholders."

Every governor pays lip service to education reform, but often little is accomplished.

This may be the moment in which real reform will happen.

New Jersey's students deserve it.

Advertisement

**USA TODAY**  
**AutoPilot** ✈️

The new travel app for iPhone® and iPod touch®

Presented by: Hampton

**SEE HOW IT WORKS »**

Print Powered By FormatDynamics



## Racing to school reform: Obama and NJ Gov. Chris Christie in rare agreement on schools

By Star-Ledger Editorial Board

May 25, 2010, 5:45AM

With a deadline looming in one week, Education Commissioner Bret Schundler is sprinting around the state trying to rally support for his effort to win up to \$400 million in education grants through President Obama's Race to the Top initiative.

It's going to be rough going. New Jersey didn't come close to winning the first round of this competition in the spring.

But we should be rooting for Schundler on this, and not only because we need the money. He and Gov. Chris Christie are pushing the state in the same direction that President Obama is pushing the nation — toward schools that are focused like a laser on student performance, even if that upsets the reactionary education establishment.

Race to the Top rewards states that embrace that approach. The reforms include merit pay for teachers, looser tenure protections and layoffs based on performance rather than seniority. Talented teachers would get an extra bonus for teaching in struggling districts, and innovative charter schools would be encouraged.

The state would build a database on student performance that would finally tell us definitively which reforms are working, and which teachers lift student performance.

"Without that, it doesn't really matter how much you spend on the car you are likely to crash," says Schundler.

Navigating the politics of this will be tough. Washington wants states to win broad support for their reforms. But if Schundler waters down the reforms to achieve consensus, New Jersey may again lose out to states that propose bolder reforms. That's his challenge.

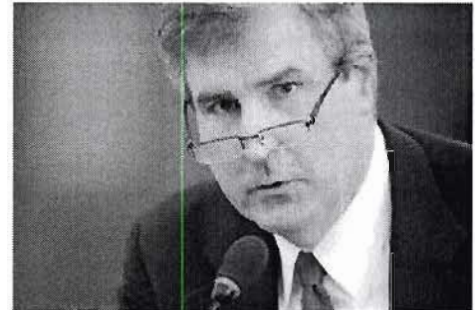
Schundler won passage of a tepid resolution in the Legislature last week, but will seek something more specific from legislative leaders this week. He has also been meeting with union officials as well.

Our hope is that he doesn't yield too much. Education Secretary Arne Duncan made it clear after the first round that he wants states to be bold, even if it costs union support.

Even then, we may be looking at long odds. The teachers union got most of the blame when we lost the first round, but the truth is that they deserve only a share. The judges also felt our Department of Education, depleted by years of budget cuts, lacked the capacity to see through reforms.

Win or lose, though, it is refreshing to see this new bipartisan consensus around sensible education reform. Obama and Christie, perfect together.

© 2010 NJ.com. All rights reserved.



Tony Kurdzuk/The Star-Ledger

New Jersey Education Commissioner Bret Schundler

## **KEAN PUSHING "RACE TO THE TOP" APPLICATION**

### **Grant Could Bring \$400 Million to NJ Schools**

Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean (R-Union) has been leading a bipartisan effort to support New Jersey's Phase II federal Race to the Top Application. The Race to the Top Fund provides competitive grants to encourage and reward States that are creating the conditions for education innovation and reform. If successful, the grant could bring up to \$400 million in federal funding to the state's cash-strapped public schools over the next four years.

"I believe, especially in our current fiscal situation, it is imperative to make every effort to apply for all of the federal aid for which we are eligible, " Kean stated. "Applying for these funds will positively impact student performance, prevent teacher layoffs and give much needed reprieve to property taxpayers."

Kean, who is a member of the Senate Education Committee, sponsored a bipartisan resolution that supported the state's entry in the Race to the Top competition. The resolution passed the Senate unanimously last week.

"It is very important to the grant process that we show strong bipartisan support, as that will give the state a better opportunity to be rewarded a grant, " Kean continued.

New Jersey's application outlines steps to turn around struggling schools, create incentives and accountability measures for teachers, track student learning growth and improve overall educational services across the state. The New Jersey Education Association has also agreed to support the state's application and has recommended local associations do the same.

" The education of our children needs to be a cooperative, bipartisan effort and this application reflects this understanding, " Kean concluded. "By aggressively pursuing the Race to the Top funding we are continuing to demonstrate our commitment to New Jersey's students."

# Garden State Coalition of Schools/GSCS

204 West States Street. Trenton, N.J. 08608

[gscs2000@gmail.com](mailto:gscs2000@gmail.com)

609 394 2828 732 618 5755

[www.gscschools.org](http://www.gscschools.org)

*Via email*  
2010

May 27,

Dear Commissioner Schundler,

After considerable deliberation, the Garden State Coalition of Schools Board of Trustees has agreed to support the New Jersey's proposal to U.S. Department of Education for a Race to the Top grant. The Board believes that the principles behind the proposal are sound and doable.

This endorsement relies on GSCS being part of the process that defines the actual details that will ensure that these goals will reflect the principles and outcomes for quality education achievement expressed in New Jersey's Race to the Top proposal. For example, linking student learning outcomes to professional performance evaluation is a core element of the state's application. We are especially interested in the NJ DOE developing and deploying 21st century assessments of 21st century learning, and in using this information as a basis for professional performance evaluation and professional development.

With the understanding that the application's key principles will become the occasion for principled discussions about operational details, GSCS believes that New Jersey's Race to the Top proposal will promote:

- the adoption of high academic standards, enabled by a curriculum that allows for learning and teaching skills to move forward together, while supporting an assessment system that provides feedback in a timely and regular manner. At the same time, this instructional setting seeks to provide the flexibility required to actively engage students in learning on an everyday basis.
- upgrading of New Jersey's data system so that it can be the high-level instrumental mechanism needed to improve student learning and appropriately inform decision-making.
- the delivery of a new level of accountability to our schools, via quantifiable and fair measures, including teacher effectiveness as tied to student learning.
- improved results in our low performing schools, while seeing that effective practices and increased student improvement remain the common denominator for all New Jersey schools.

GSCS recognizes that the Race to the Top award can be the key to the implementation of the New Jersey Education Reform Plan. This will allow our state to continue to improve its already grounded pursuit of quality public education and global competitiveness for all of New Jersey's children.

\_\_\_\_\_ D.A. \_\_\_\_\_ David Abbott, PhD, GSCS President

\_\_\_\_\_ L.S. \_\_\_\_\_ Lynne Strickland, Executive Director