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## What They Are Saying...Opinion Makers & Education Advocates Agree:

Thursday, January 20, 2011

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**“[Governor Christie’s] commitment toward charter schools is good news.”**

[Opinion Makers...](#)

**Press of Atlantic City, “Christie’s announcement shows another, better path to giving students at failing urban schools an option”:**

“Gov. Chris Christie has targeted education reform - particularly reform of failing urban schools - as one of his key priorities. Most of his initiatives have merit. Most focus public resources and energy into the public school system. ... Christie on Tuesday approved 23 new charter schools - four in Atlantic and Cumberland counties. Charter schools allows for innovation and some independence while still keeping public money in a system controlled by the public. Christie’s announcement shows another, better path to giving students at failing urban schools an option.” (“Education reform / Drawing the line,” Press of Atlantic City, 1/20/2011)

**The Record, “[Governor Chris Christie’s] commitment toward charter schools is good news”:**

“GOVERNOR CHRISTIE announced Tuesday that the state has approved 23 new charter schools. ... Charter schools generally do better than the failing regular school in the same community. ... Christie gets credit for vowing to close poorly performing charters and speeding up the process for creating new ones. All of this is good if it is part of a larger dialogue to improve public education. ... We believe charter schools can be an important part of the public-education mix. We would like to see more charters created with mission statements like the Bright Horizon Charter School, one of the 23 named new charters on Tuesday. While open to all students, it is designed to serve foster care students or students at risk of being placed in foster care. Charters that deal with some of the core problems facing children in troubled communities can do a great service. Christie takes pride in having big ideas. There is no bigger or more important idea than reforming and improving public education. The governor has everyone’s attention, and that is no small feat. His commitment toward charter schools is good news.” (“Public education,” The Record, 1/19/2011)

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**CEO of the New Jersey Charter Schools Association Carlos Perez, “We are encouraged ... [by] Gov. Christie’s commitment to providing high-quality educational choices for parents and children of our state” :**

“We are encouraged at the number of charter schools approved by the New Jersey Department of Education and Gov. Christie’s commitment to providing high-quality educational choices for parents and children of our state ...” (Angela Delli Santi, “Christie administration OKs 23 charter schools,” Associated Press, 1/18/2011)

“... Perez was “excited” by Christie’s announcement ... he applauded Christie’s proposal to require charters to enter performance contracts. He said he hoped that the proposal to make 31 public colleges and all local school boards eligible to become charter authorizers would be fashioned in a way that would result in greater oversight of charters.” (Rita Giordano, “N.J. approves a record number of charter schools: 23,” Philadelphia Inquirer, 1/19/2011)

**Co-Founder of the Vineland Public Charter School Tito Garcia, “...the support from the governor was imperative”:**

“... said the support from the governor was imperative. “Of course, it’s a lot easier with Governor Christie being so pro-charter school,” he said. “Compared to what it was several years ago, the process is still arduous and very tedious, but it helps to have schools opening.” (Joel Landau, “M’ville gets 1st charter school,” Daily Journal, 1/19/2011)

**Board member of the state’s charter school association and development director of the Learning Community Charter School in Jersey City Shelley Skinner, “...commended the governor for his aggressive move on behalf of the charter movement”:**

"... commended the governor for his aggressive move on behalf of the charter movement ... "I'm really happy by the big vote of confidence for a sector that is clearly doing pretty good work..." (John Mooney, "A Christie Doctrine for Charter Schools?" NJ Spotlight, 1/19/2011)

**Executive Director of E3 Derrell Bradford, "...more charter schools were long needed":**

"... said more charter schools were long needed to help address underperforming district schools in major urban areas, and charter school waiting lists with thousands of students' names. "In previous administrations, a good application didn't always make it out because charter schools were tolerated but not embraced," Mr. Bradford said. "Now, I think, the governor's focus on expanding opportunities for children in our most troubled school districts informs everything the department does." (Winnie Hu, "Christie Says 23 Schools Get Charters," New York Times, 1/18/2011)

**New Jersey Virtual Charter School Co-Founder Timothy Nogueira, the approval of the charter school will help "kids with the greatest need":**

"This gives the students an environment that is different from what they are in, so it may be more successful..." (Barbara S. Rothschild, "DOE approves 23 new charter schools," Courier-Post, 1/19/2011)

"I was thrilled. Nobody does this ... It's a very different concept for the state. A virtual school is a challenge. We're very happy to see they are accepting of the idea." ... "We're serving kids with the greatest need," he said. "We can help kids with only a couple hours a day to do school." (Suzanne C. Russell and Jason Method, "New charter schools serving Linden, Perth Amboy students win state OK," Home News Tribune, 1/18/2011)

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**Press Contact:**  
Michael Drewniak  
Kevin Roberts  
609-777-2600



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Office of the Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
609-292-6000