

# Hope for the Future

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## Hope For The Future

*The Urban Hope Act Is A Victory For Children Trapped In Failing Schools, But The Legislature Must Take Further Action To Ensure That Every New Jersey Child Receives A Quality Education*

"While we pursue a comprehensive reform agenda to deliver positive results to every student in New Jersey, we simply cannot continue asking parents and children in failing schools to wait for relief. This pilot program will provide an innovative alternative for those children who need it most, bolstering our efforts to ensure opportunity for every child in our state. Perhaps most importantly, through the knowledge that change is on the way, this program will begin to restore hope in communities where failing schools deny children hope and opportunity."

- Governor Chris Christie, "Governor Chris Christie Announces Innovative Transformation Schools Initiative," [Press Release](#), June 9, 2011

### THERE IS BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT THAT THE URBAN HOPE ACT IS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD FOR EDUCATION REFORM

**Newark Mayor Cory Booker:** "I am in full support of the Urban Hope Act, which will provide for additional learning space and new, high quality public school options for Newark's young people. The Act offers much needed relief in parts of our district that have experienced chronic overcrowding, and will inject new energy, resources, ideas and learning models into our school system." (*Statement Of Support On Urban Hope Act - Mayor Cory A. Booker,* [Press Release](#), 1/9/12)

**Camden Mayor Dana Redd:** "For far too long, our urban youth have struggled to break through the achievement barriers found in the chronically failing schools in urban communities like Camden. This Transformation Schools initiative will give these students and their parents renewed hope, access to quality educational opportunities and the ability to reach their potential for a productive and successful future." (*Governor Chris Christie Announces Innovative Transformation Schools Initiative,* [Press Release](#), 6/9/11)

**Sen. Donald Norcross (D-Camden/Gloucester):** "Students in Camden, Newark and Trenton are being forced to attend failing schools where they are deprived of the quality education they deserve ... It is our responsibility to provide them with access to better educational options. With school construction projects at a standstill and alternative educational opportunities out of reach for so many, this allows local school districts to partner with nonprofits to provide new hope to our children for success." (*Trish Graber, "Norcross, Fuentes, Wilson-Sponsored 'Urban Hope Act' Heads To Governor,"* [PolitickerNJ](#), 1/9/12)

**Sen. Robert W. Singer (R-Ocean County):** "Republican State Sen. Robert W. Singer of Ocean County said he hoped the program was eventually expanded to Lakewood, his home town. He noted an Asbury Park Press article that highlighted the fact that only 37 percent of Lakewood High School students graduate." (*Jason Method, "School election changes, private-public schools OK'd by Legislature,"* [Asbury Park Press](#), 1/10/11)

**Assemblyman Angel Fuentes (D-Camden/Gloucester):** "The fact that thousands of students in our state are trapped in failing schools is shameful ... It is incumbent upon us as public officials to do everything we can to provide them access to good schools in their communities that will give them the skills they need to be successful in college or in the workforce. With construction of schools in these cities stalled, this bill creates a mechanism to allow for new projects to go forward with the use of private funding." (*Trish Graber, "Norcross, Fuentes, Wilson-Sponsored 'Urban Hope Act' Heads To Governor,"* [PolitickerNJ](#), 1/9/12)

### SEVERAL MORE BILLS AWAIT LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO FIX NEW JERSEY'S BROKEN EDUCATION SYSTEM

#### The School Children First Act

S-2881 Introduced in the Senate: 5/19/11; A-4168 Introduced in the Assembly: 6/23/11

The quality of the teacher in front of the classroom is the most important in-school factor affecting student achievement. New Jersey must establish a system that rewards the many quality educators in our state, provide support to those who

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