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# Governor Christie On Fixing Broken Public Schools: These Are The Fights That We Have To Have

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Governor Christie On Fixing Broken Public Schools: These Are The Fights T...

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### Transcript:

**Governor Christie:** I was on the boardwalk, I'm sorry to say this, where's the chief? I was on the boardwalk in Point Pleasant, sorry, for the chief in Seaside Heights. I was on the boardwalk in Point Pleasant and a young teacher came up to me and introduced herself and said she was a fourth grade teacher. And for those of you who have had children go through grade schools, you know that in the fourth grade, the social studies curriculum is the State of New Jersey. When you're in the fourth grade you learn about the State of New Jersey. So she came up, she's a young, new teacher, teaching the fourth grade and she said, listen, this is going to be my first time teaching about New Jersey. Would you take a picture with me, so I could put it up on the wall in the front and let the kids know that I actually met the Governor so when I'm teaching about you and the legislature and local government that they can actually see that? I said, 'Sure,' so we took a picture. Couple months later I got a letter. Now I didn't remember her name or who she was, any of you who've seen me on the boardwalk at times here, I take more pictures than I can count, and people all introduce themselves and some things stick but the older I get, less do. But I got a letter. In the first paragraph of the

letter, she reminded me that she was the fourth grade teacher who was teaching New Jersey for the first time that we got a picture together. And this is the story she told me. She said to me said I put the picture up at the front of the room and said a couple weeks into school, my union rep came to the classroom and she said, take the picture down. And she said, why should I take the picture down? It's a picture of the governor, I'm teaching about New Jersey. She said, he's not a friend of ours take the picture down. And she said, well this isn't right he's the governor, I'm teaching about New Jersey, it's a good picture, I talked to the kids about it, I should keep it up. She put her hand on her arm and said, remember, you're not tenured yet. Now, I said this the other day somewhere, and I said this is the kind of stuff that like the Corleone's would do. Now is that bashing a teacher? I'm trying to defend that teacher. That teacher did what she thought was right. Teacher's don't have to put my picture up at the front of the room. I'm not, you know, Mussolini. Right? Your picture doesn't have to be up at the front of the room. But if she takes a picture with the Governor, and she puts that at the front of the room, and she wants that in the front of her classroom, no union rep should come in there, because they don't agree with my politics and tell her to take the thing down. Because believe me, could you imagine if I went into a classroom and saw a picture of the teacher's union president at the front of the room and said hey, take that down because I don't agree with his politics? There'd be five investigations. Alright, there's none into this, because we've come to accept this. So you want to talk about bashing, we can talk about bashing a lot. We can talk about the tens of millions of dollars they've spent on TV bashing me, tens of millions of dollars they've spent on the radio in teacher dues. And I wonder if each one of those teachers are all people who agree with them and agree that their money is to be spent by bashing their Governor and the people they don't agree with. So these are the fights we have to have everybody. These are the fights we have to have, and I'm not going to stop having them. And it's going to make some people uncomfortable, and I apologize for that but you know what? That's my job, and that's what I'm going to continue to do.

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