

Office of the Governor

NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Pete McDonough
Jayne O'Connor
609-777-2600

RELEASE: October 7, 1998

Whitman Applauds Board Action on Choice Regulations

Gov. Christie Whitman today applauded the unanimous vote by the State Board of Education to move forward with modified regulations to create a pilot program to give parents and their children the opportunity to choose the public schools they will attend. The regulations are being amended to meet the educational concerns raised by the Legislature upon recent passage of a concurrent resolution.

"We are committed to a real choice program that first and foremost addresses the educational needs of parents and children. Our highest calling is to meet their educational needs and we are confident that these regulations meet that calling," the Governor said.

"There is overwhelming support for school choice among parents and children. We are hopeful that these final changes to the regulations will remove legislative objections to such a critical educational option," she said.

"The approval of these amendments marks the third modification of the program to meet educational concerns raised by the Legislature. At their request we had previously limited the number of schools permitted to participate in the program and restricted the number of students that can avail themselves of this important initiative," she said.

"The changes adopted today would allow sending districts to deny individual participation in the choice program when it can be demonstrated that allowing a child to choose his or her school would disrupt the racial balance of the sending district or would compromise that district's ability to deliver a thorough and efficient education," she added.