



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
CONTACT: Pete McDonough
(609) 777-2600

TRENTON, NJ 08625
RELEASE: January 29, 1998

School Regionalization Report Issued

Gov. Christie Whitman today received the final report of the New Jersey Regionalization Advisory Panel and indicated that it provides the basis for an in-depth discussion of the impact of school district regionalization in New Jersey. The Governor called for a referendum on school regionalization in her State of the State address on January 13, 1998.

"School regionalization can only be successful if it is fully understood and supported by parents, students and taxpayers. This reports will help provide New Jerseyans with an understanding of the issues related to regionalization," she said.

"Regionalizing some of New Jersey's more than 600 school districts can have tremendous benefits for students and taxpayers, but it will never occur unless there is broad public support," she said.

"On one hand, school regionalization can provide substantial efficiencies in the ways we fund education. Regionalization or the sharing of services may guarantee that more of our education dollars are spent on educating children rather than supporting bureaucracy and administrative costs," the Governor said.

"At the same time," she cautioned, "there are issues of local control that are heartfelt and genuine."

"Our schools are so important. Their future should not be dealt with in a quiet little report. Any conversation about change should be soundly debated, fully in the public eye and with full public participation," the Governor said in her State of the State Address.

"Today's report will, no doubt, provide much of the substance of an informed and enlightened debate," she said.

####
