

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: September 18, 1998

Governor's Weekly Radio Message Focuses on Education Initiatives

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This week the Governor discusses educational initiatives in New Jersey. Earlier this year, the New Jersey Supreme Court affirmed that under the Governor's standards-based, results oriented plan, New Jersey provides a thorough and efficient education for all of its students, no matter where they live. New Jersey is doing even more to prepare its students for the world by bringing technology into the classroom through the distance learning network, which uses interactive video to link classrooms to other classrooms and outside resources. The Governor has also ensured that paying for school will be easier with the New Jersey Best College Savings Plan and by freezing the cost of tuition at Community colleges this year.

Attached is the text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

Governor's Weekly Radio Message September 18, 1998 Back To School

This has been a wonderful summer here in New Jersey. But the end of summer vacation means back-to-school time for New Jersey's children. And many of you will have spent the past couple of weeks getting your children ready for the new academic year.

And while students have been gathering notebooks and pens, we have been working hard to give them the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

And I am proud to be able to say that the New Jersey Supreme Court agrees with me. Earlier this year, the State Supreme Court affirmed that under my administration's standards-based, results-oriented plan, New Jersey fulfills its constitutional duty to provide a thorough and efficient education for all our students.

With 28 years of school funding litigation behind us, we can be confident that from pre-k through high school, we are doing everything we can to help all children reach the high standards we've set for them no matter where they live.

This is a great achievement. However, in New Jersey we are doing even more to prepare our students for the increasingly technical world in which they will live, by bringing technology into the classroom. I had an opportunity to see this for myself as I toured schools this week that are participating in the Distance Learning Network.

This network uses interactive video technology to link schools to each other and to outside resources. This makes it possible to expand course offerings and provide unique learning opportunities.

For instance, classes with traditionally low-enrollments, like Russian or bi-lingual algebra, can now be taken by students in several different schools and taught by one teacher. This technology can even be used to bring college courses to high school students.

As we make sure our schools do their best, we want to give high school graduates the best chance to receive an affordable higher education.

We are helping more of our students get to college with our New Jersey Best College Savings Plan. This plan creates tax benefits to help families prepare for the considerable cost of higher education.

We are also doing what we can to keep higher education affordable by freezing the cost of tuition at our Community Colleges this year. These institutions do a remarkable job in serving a wide range of students throughout New Jersey, and they are a vital part of our system of colleges and universities.

In New Jersey, intelligent investment in our educational system is producing the kind of schools our children deserve. We expect great things from our children and we are giving them the resources they need to achieve.

Together we are proving that New Jersey and scholars are perfect together.

Thank you, and have a great school year!