



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Statement of Gov. Christie Whitman Regarding Judge King's Recommendation to the State Supreme Court in Abbott

The following statement was issued by Gov. Christie Whitman in response to the recommendations of Judge King to the New Jersey Supreme Court in Abbott v Burke :

"Judge King's recommendations are just that, recommendations. We will argue them vigorously before the Supreme Court in March.

"Certainly, we agree with Judge King's endorsement of our approach to education reform. We are troubled, however, that his recommendation calls for another \$312 million in aid to 28 school districts where we have already increased aid by more than a half- billion dollars.

"Spending this additional amount on programs where there is insufficient evidence that they improve student achievement would be questionable and may divert funding from other important educational programs.

"We have never been afraid to spend money on education in New Jersey and already spend more per-pupil than any state in the nation or country in the world. Establishing policies that ensure that every student in every classroom in New Jersey receives a world class education will continue to be a top priority of mine and the Legislature."

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Attorney General Verniero and Commissioner Klagholz will available for comment at 1:00 p.m. in the fourth floor conference center of the Hughes Justice Complex.

