

A New (School) Day In Newark

As The New School Year Begins In Newark, Signs Of Progress Are Emerging As Hard Fought Reforms Are Helping To Deliver On The Promise Of A Quality Education To Every Child

Increased Access And Choice:

Newark Superintendent Cami Anderson and her team are working to implement One Newark, a community-wide agenda focused on creating 100 excellent schools. A key element of that plan is increasing opportunity and choice for the families of Newark. This school year will see Newark reach important milestones in implementing that vision:

- **Choices For Students And Families:** In the first year of the Universal Enrollment system under One Newark, 92 percent of families who applied were successfully matched to a district school with 74 percent receiving one of their top 5 schools.
 - For the first time in Newark Public School's history, the district opened a "one stop" Enrollment Center which has already served 3,000 families since opening.
- **Expanded Early Childhood Education:** Extensive community engagement and outreach have resulted in higher rates of student enrollment in free, universal early childhood than at any point in Newark's history. Since 2011, early childhood enrollment has increased by 1,000 students.
 - Newark has been named just the 2nd district in the U.S. to win a \$7 million grant from Head Start to add 1,000 additional seats to the Early Childhood program.

Signs Of Progress For Newark Families:

Governor Christie and Superintendent Anderson believe that real change is needed in Newark to deliver on the promise of a high-quality education to every student in Newark. While the work is far from finished, Newark is making progress in several key areas:

- **Improved Performance Through "Renew Schools":** As part of its goal to have 100 excellent schools for Newark, the district announced the formation of "Renew Schools" with the goal to effect dramatic gains in student outcomes in some of the city's most challenged schools. With more time for students to learn and teachers to collaborate, the seven Renew Schools are showing unprecedented growth.
 - Approximately one-quarter of district schools showing improvement in reading and math were Renew Schools, and one-half of High Need schools demonstrating the largest improvements in math were Renew Schools.
 - 5 of the 7 Renew Schools increased their average reading scores while 6 of the 7 Renew Schools increased their average Math scores.
 - 6 of the 7 Renew Schools saw an increase in the percent of students meeting the college readiness benchmark in both English and Math, and 5 of 7 saw an increase in Science.
- **Increased High School Graduation Rates:** Over the past three years, Newark has seen an

increase in the overall graduation rate from 56% to 68%, as well as an increase in the High School Proficiency Assessment graduation rate by 11%.

SINCE TAKING OFFICE, GOVERNOR CHRISTIE HAS FOCUSED ON BRINGING REAL REFORM TO NEWARK AND DELIVERING REAL RESULTS FOR ITS STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Empowering Leaders to Meet the Urgent Challenges for Children in Newark:

Governor Christie has empowered Cami Anderson, an innovative, passionate leader in one of New Jersey's most challenged school districts to drive bold reforms to improve achievement for every child they serve.

The Newark superintendent has moved to secure a historic teachers contract that rewards the best teachers, has acted to stop actions that are failing kids, to empower 50 new principals, create cooperation between public schools and charter schools and reorganize the school system's structure to focus on putting students, schools and parents first.

- **That Hands-On Action Has Already Started to Get Real Results for Newark Families.** Early childhood enrollment has increased by more than 1,000 students. Graduation rates have increased by 10%. The district has implemented a citywide high school choice process that allows parents to choose the school that is the best fit for their children.
- **Newark Is Pressing Forward with Bold Reforms Moving Forward.** *One Newark*, Newark Public Schools' reform plan is aimed at creating 100 excellent schools across the district. Next steps on this path include:
 - Strengthening Accountability with a Common Accountability Framework for All Schools – Public and Charter alike.
 - Modern Learning Facilities. Newark continues to secure the funding it needs to ensure the next generation of modern, 21st century learning environments for students in partnership with the Schools Development Authority.
 - Focusing on Quality Educators. Newark will continue to focus on attracting and retaining quality teachers and providing support to those who need improvement.

Working With Teachers To Bring Performance-Based Pay To Newark Schools:

For the first time in New Jersey history, teachers in Newark are earning raises and are eligible for additional bonuses based on annual performance evaluations that include measuring the progress being made by their students. This new contract is enabling Newark to retain and reward the best teachers and improve the quality of education for their students, including retention of 95% of Newark's "highly effective" teachers over the past two years:

- Teachers will receive annual performance evaluations rating them as "Highly Effective," "Effective," "Partially Effective" or "Ineffective."
- Teachers who earn a rating of "effective" or "highly effective" will qualify for annual raises while teachers who receive a less-than-satisfactory evaluation will remain frozen at their current salary level.
- The best performing teachers will also be eligible to earn bonuses based on performance and need.

Historic Bipartisan Changes To The Nation's Oldest Tenure Law:

Marking the first extensive reform of New Jersey's tenure law in over 100 years, Governor Christie signed into law the Teacher Effectiveness and Accountability for the Children of New Jersey (TEACHNJ) Act, a sweeping, bipartisan overhaul of the oldest tenure law in the nation. The legislation:

- Transforms the existing tenure system to now provide powerful tools to identify effective and ineffective teachers;
- Strengthens the supports available to help all teachers improve their craft;
- For the first time, ties the acquisition, maintenance, and loss of tenure to a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom;
- Dramatically reduces the time and cost it takes to remove educators who are repeatedly ineffective in improving student outcomes.

The law was the result of nearly two years of consistent and vocal advocacy for real education reform by Governor Christie and good faith, bipartisan cooperation with members of the legislature, education reform advocates, and stakeholder groups.

Historic Support For New Jersey Schools:

Governor Christie's fiscal year 2015 budget continues to provide both the resources and reforms needed to deliver opportunity to every New Jersey child regardless of zip code. Governor Christie proposes distributing a record-setting \$9 billion in aid to schools, which is \$36.8 million more than the previous year and the fourth consecutive year of increasing overall funding for schools in New Jersey.

- Overall, this budget commits spending nearly **\$12.9 billion** on education, or \$481 million more than in fiscal year 2014 and \$2.8 billion more since fiscal year 2011, which was Governor Christie's first full budget after taking office.

Focusing on the Lowest Performing Schools:

The Christie Administration has undertaken bold reform to turn around the state's persistently failing schools. As one of the first states in the country to receive flexibility from No Child Left Behind, the Department of Education is recognizing high performing "Reward" schools and shifting significant resources and support to "Priority" and "Focus" schools, those schools that are the lowest performing in the state or that have significant achievement gaps.

- The Department is providing the day-to-day support of dozens of expert educators through Regional Achievement Centers to help these schools improve.