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Gov. Christie On Returning Local Control: Newark Schools, Student Outcomes Are Undeniably Better Than 6 Years Ago

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

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Gov. Christie: Newark Schools, Student Outcomes Are Undeniabl...

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Transcript:

Governor Christie: In the last six years, the accomplishments of this system are very, very impressive. The job is certainly not complete, but we have made real progress, at times, in the face of real emotional opposition. That is why, after more than 20 years of State control, the progress made over the past 6.5 years will afford the State the opportunity to return Newark Public Schools to local control. This is a watershed moment for Newark's education community. Now, the current state of education in this city can be summed up pretty simply: Kids in Newark are getting a better education today in the Newark Public Schools than they did six years ago. That is undeniable. And it's improving every year. But that upward momentum can and will be lost, unless we put aside old orthodoxy, and we act based on the facts before us, not the emotion. You see sometimes, old, entrenched, failed positions can easily tear apart the new partnerships in Newark that are the force behind reform, and the very reason that return of local control is even possible. While a counterproductive debate about traditional public schools versus public charter schools is still being had by those looking to settle some old scores, the schools themselves are quietly, at the very same time, working together in new and unprecedented ways to help the kids in Newark achieve academic success. And isn't that what matters most - our children's academic success? So let's finally put to rest the old myths about this topic and take notice of what is actually happening on the ground here on the ground in this city, things that we should be very proud of. Instead of students falling further and further behind, students are in fact, climbing higher and higher. In some cases, Newark's students are at the top of New Jersey's class, exceeding their peers in academic accomplishment across the state: urban, suburban, and rural. But we have yet to have each and every Newark child reaching their full academic potential, and that is not only our goal, it's our moral commitment.

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