

**GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT UPON SIGNING
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4181
(First Reprint)**

The Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 4181 (First Reprint), which I am very pleased to approve today, represents an important step in support of renaissance schools and their many contributions to educating New Jersey's next generation of leaders. As I noted in August when recommending a few amendments to this highly technical bill, renaissance schools play a crucial role in the ongoing process of revitalizing Camden's educational system and I again applaud the sponsors' commitment to improving the educational opportunities afforded to the city's children.

Renaissance schools truly operate as neighborhood schools, guaranteeing enrollment in a first-class school for any student living in the surrounding neighborhood. For this reason and many others, I believe it is entirely appropriate for employees of renaissance school projects to be eligible for full membership in the State-administered retirement systems upon commencement of their employment. Indeed, many renaissance school employees formerly participated in these same retirement systems as school district employees, educating children in these same neighborhoods. I am strongly committed to taking all necessary steps at the State level to ensure participation by these employees in the State-administered pension systems, consistent with federal law and the statutes governing the establishment and maintenance of governmental defined qualified benefit plans in New Jersey. To this end, I am instructing the State Treasurer, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, to work closely with affected renaissance schools and their eligible employees with the goal of expeditiously effectuating all of the goals of this important law. Moreover, I am instructing the Attorney General to provide all necessary legal guidance to ensure maintenance of the qualified status of the State's retirement systems.

Date: October 4, 2018

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Matthew J. Platkin

Chief Counsel to the Governor