

# GLEN ROCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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April 9, 2010

Honorable Chris Christie  
Governor of New Jersey  
Post Office Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Christie:

There is widespread disappointment that you have not yet responded to my previous letter inviting you to come to Glen Rock and see for yourself the effects your state aid cuts will have on a superb school district. That letter, as you may already be aware, had within forty-eight hours after its issuance, gone 'viral' circulating throughout school districts and communities from one end of the state to the other. The general public is clearly listening and paying attention as is abundantly evidenced by both the press interest and the several hundred emails, phone calls, letters, and even *FaceBook* posts, that I have received from people all over New Jersey.

Governor, the entire state is watching to see what you will do and whether you will seize the opportunity I have offered to move an agenda of reform dramatically forward.

All Bergen's educational community is asking is that you listen to us and allow us to help you solve the funding crisis facing New Jersey. It is abundantly clear that if long-term solutions are to be found, they cannot be developed and implemented through the top-down imposition of punitive measures designed to diminish the influence of any union. True change will only come through the 'buy-in' of all stakeholders. Make no mistake about it, the systemic changes you seek will not happen until the people most directly effected are included in the creation of a reasonable and equitable program of school finance reform.

Therefore, I ask you again. Won't you please talk to us and let us work with you to craft solution to the problems facing New Jersey? If you would simply dialogue with educators from our county, you would find us more than ready and willing to be your partners in a process of true and lasting change. We have both the expertise and experience that will help you achieve your goals more efficiently and more effectively. This is a no-brainer, Governor. Why not take advantage of the resources we are offering to place at your service?

And, Governor, please keep in mind two things that we constantly teach our students.

**GLEN ROCK IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**


Governor Chris Christie  
*Invitation to Glen Rock*  
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First, that sometimes there is more than one right answer; this was never more true than in the case at hand.

Second, we teach children that an essential element of success is perseverance, a quality which I have in abundance. Governor, I will not give up trying to communicate these ideas to you and will not, under any circumstances, abdicate my responsibility to speak out on behalf of public education. I care deeply about my profession and the state I call my home. So please, put your days as a prosecutor behind you and wear the mantle of leadership in a manner that befits the high office you now hold. Be the Governor to all New Jersey by not forgetting that you are our Governor, too. Please stop seeing teachers and administrators as the 'problem' when we have tried so very hard and for so very long to be part of the solution.

Thank you very much for your consideration and I hope that in the near future I will have the privilege of welcoming you to Glen Rock.

Respectfully yours,



David C. Verducci, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Glen Rock Public Schools

c: Bergen County Legislators  
Commissioner Bret Schundler  
Executive County Superintendent Aaron R. Graham  
New Jersey Association of School Administrators  
Bergen County Association of School Administrators  
Glen Rock Board of Education  
Glen Rock Education Association  
Glen Rock Administrators Association  
Glen Rock Federated Home School Association  
Glen Rock Mayor & Council

***Every child. Every chance. Every day.***