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Charter School Review Must Address Funding Bias Against Charter Schools

Charter School Student and Parent Voices Must Be Heard

Hamilton, NJ – October 10, 2018 – Today, State Commissioner Dr. Lamont Repollet officially announced that the New Jersey Department of Education will conduct a “comprehensive review” of New Jersey’s public charter schools, including a review of the laws that govern how charter schools operate in the state.

“New Jersey’s charter schools are providing fifty thousand New Jersey students, predominantly minority and low-income families, with life-changing choices and educational opportunities. It is critical that the voices of families served by charters schools are heard and listened to during the review,” said Harry Lee, Interim President, New Jersey Charter Schools Association. “Despite inadequate funding and no funding for school facilities, families across New Jersey want the option of a public charter school. In addition to the fifty thousand students attending a public charter school, thirty-five thousand more are on wait lists. The voices and stories of these families must be part of this review and their educational desires and needs must be considered.”

“We hope the charter review isn’t a forum for anti-charter school special interests to attack and undermine the choices our families have made,” added Lee.

Harry Lee remarked about charters closing the achievement gap despite numerous hurdles, saying, “Through this process, our students and families will speak first hand to their reasons for making their choice, the impact it has had on their lives, and the challenges our schools face due to less funding than other public schools. Our families are also best positioned to dispel the many myths and baseless claims made against charter schools by our opponents. The fact is, New Jersey charter schools are providing a high-quality public education to tens of thousands of students and closing the achievement gap. The charter community looks forward to discussing our many successes, as well as the obstacles our schools face, including lack of equitable funding, particularly for facilities.”

About New Jersey Charter Schools Association

The New Jersey Charter Schools Association (NJCSA) is a statewide association representing the state’s charter sector. New Jersey is home to 89 charter schools, serving more than 50,000 children. NJCSA was formed in 1999 and today is charged with advancing a quality public education for New Jersey’s children through quality public charter schools. Our vision is that every child in the State of New Jersey has the opportunity to attend a high-quality public school that best meets his or her needs. For more information, visit www.njcharters.org