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New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association President and CEO Harry Lee issued the following statement reacting to Governor Murphy’s announcement about State learning loss initiatives, mental health support, and the State’s plan to seek a federal waiver on conducting statewide assessments this year.

“Whether it is conducting daily wellness phone calls with students or hosting one-on-one tutoring in the evenings, New Jersey’s public charter schools have found remarkable ways to meet the needs of our students and families during this public health crisis. Despite our tremendous agility and ability to innovate, we continue to need State guidance and resources to navigate the educational roadblocks caused by the pandemic. The grant opportunities announced by Governor Murphy will begin to address two of our schools’ top concerns—mental health support and student learning loss caused by remote instruction.

“We know that going forward data will play a critical role in ensuring our most vulnerable students get the services they need. That is why we also appreciate the commonsense approach to the collection and analysis of student learning data while also not overburdening already-strained students and schools with the spring administration of statewide assessments.”

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About Public Charter Schools

Charter schools are tuition-free public schools run by non-profit organizations open to all students regardless of zip code, race/ethnicity, or ability level. Charter schools operate with more flexibility than traditional public schools in exchange for increased accountability and high financial, academic, and managerial standards by an authorizer.

About New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association

The New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association (NJPCSA) is the non-profit membership association that represents the state’s charter school community and, by extension, charter school students and their parents. There are currently 87 charter schools in New Jersey serving approximately 57,000 students. We are committed to advancing quality public education for New Jersey’s children through the cultivation of excellent public charter schools. The Association seeks to influence legislative and policy environments, leverage collective advocacy, and provide resources to support our members in developing and operating high quality, public charter schools.