



October 5, 2026

Mikie Sherrill
Governor of New Jersey
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dr. Lily Laux
Commissioner of the New Jersey
Department of Education
PO Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625

CC: Members of the New Jersey State Board of Education
stateboardoffice@doe.nj.gov

Via E-Mail

**RE: END THE STATE TAKEOVER AND RETURN CAMDEN CITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT TO LOCAL CONTROL**

Dear Governor Sherrill, Commissioner Laux, and Members of the New Jersey State Board of Education:

We, the Camden Parent & Student Union (Camden PSU) and Advancement Project,¹ urge the State of New Jersey to end the state takeover and return full local control to the Camden City School District (CCSD). Formed in 2014 during the first year of the takeover, Camden PSU organizes students, parents, and community members who care about our schools and the education our children receive in Camden. Rather than improving CCSD schools, we have seen firsthand how New Jersey's takeover has stripped us of our right to govern ourselves, closed 11 schools, run CCSD into a \$91 million deficit, and worsened access to high-quality public education for CCSD students. We urge you to end the failed experiment started in the Christie administration, return CCSD to local control, and restore our right to have a say in our community's schools and the quality education that Camden children deserve.

I. New Jersey's State Takeover Laws and Practices are A Failed Strategy for School District Improvement

The state takeover of CCSD should end and local control returned to the district, which as state leaders you have the power to do immediately. Not only is there no justification for the takeover to continue, but state takeovers writ large have not actually met the goals they were intended to meet and instead have deprived mostly Black and Latine communities of quality educational

¹ Advancement Project is a national racial justice organization committed to supporting communities fighting to keep their neighborhood public schools and working to ensure that our nation's children are cared for and provided the robust, liberatory education that they deserve. For 25 years, Advancement Project has documented and pioneered efforts to end the school-to-prison pipeline and fought for true education justice in our public schools.

opportunities, access to elected school boards that are accountable to students and parents, and the ability to have a say in how and what their children learn. In 1987, the Republican-controlled General Assembly passed and Gov. Thomas Kean signed a bill creating New Jersey’s school takeover law²—becoming the first state in the nation to pass such a law.³ Nearly four decades later, researchers have found no evidence that takeovers improve academic outcomes.⁴ For example, after 30 years under state control, test scores reportedly revealed less than one in three students in the Paterson City School District were proficient in language arts.⁵

State takeovers are not experienced by all communities equally—they are more likely to occur in predominantly Black and Latine districts.⁶ Research has shown that race is a significant factor in which districts are taken over, not necessarily academic performance, and that Black communities are “disproportionately negatively affected by state takeovers.”⁷ Every school district in New Jersey that has been taken over is majority Black or Latine.⁸ Given that researchers studying New Jersey “found ‘no evidence that the state takeover improved standardized test scores in Camden City schools,’”⁹ continuing the practice of state takeovers is neither educationally sound, nor is it fair to the Black and Latine communities who have been stripped of power over their schools.

II. The Takeover of CCSD Has Stripped Camden Residents of the Right to Govern Their Communities

The state takeover of CCSD stripped the elected school board of its decision-making power. Currently, the school board functions in an advisory role.¹⁰ Thus, the school board has lacked meaningful decision-making power in CCSD since the takeover 13 years ago. As such, Camden residents seeking to be involved in decisions about their public schools, hold elected leaders accountable for CCSD decisions, or give meaningful input in CCSD decisions face additional barriers compared to other New Jersey residents. For example, State Board of Education (SBOE) meetings, where state officials vote on the recommendations of Camden’s advisory school board,

² New Jersey P.L. 1987, c. 398.

³ Catherine Carrera, “On cusp of schools takeover, experts ask: Why try again?,” NJ Spotlight News (Feb. 18, 2026), <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2026/02/on-cusp-of-schools-takeover-experts-ask-why-try-again/>.

⁴ Beth E. Schueler and Joshua F. Bleiberg, J. F., “Evaluating education governance: Does state takeover of school districts affect student achievement?,” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 41(1), 162–192 (Feb. 10, 2022), <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/pam.22338>.

⁵ Catherine Carrera, “On cusp of schools takeover, experts ask: Why try again?,” NJ Spotlight News (Feb. 18, 2026), <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2026/02/on-cusp-of-schools-takeover-experts-ask-why-try-again/>.

⁶ Domingo Morel, *Takeover: Race, Education, and American Democracy* 78 (2018).

⁷ Domingo Morel, *Takeover: Race, Education, and American Democracy* 11 (2018).

⁸ Catherine Carrera, “On cusp of schools takeover, experts ask: Why try again?,” NJ Spotlight News (Feb. 18, 2026), <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2026/02/on-cusp-of-schools-takeover-experts-ask-why-try-again/>.

⁹ Catherine Carrera, “On cusp of schools takeover, experts ask: Why try again?,” NJ Spotlight News (Feb. 18, 2026), <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2026/02/on-cusp-of-schools-takeover-experts-ask-why-try-again/>.

¹⁰ Camden City School District, “Advisory Board of Education,” <https://camdencityschools.org/about/advisory-board/> (last accessed Sept. 17, 2026).

are difficult to access.¹¹ Because SBOE meetings are held in Trenton and only open to public testimony three meetings a year, Camden community members have far fewer opportunities to voice their concerns on actions and policies implemented in CCSD.¹² In contrast, most school districts in New Jersey have elected school boards in which those decisions are made in local, monthly public meetings without state intervention or approval.

In another example, when the previous superintendent stepped down in June 2025, the state led the search for a replacement without input from Camden’s advisory school board.¹³ That search ended in January 2026 when the state appointed a new superintendent,¹⁴ despite community criticism of the lack of communication and transparency in the superintendent selection process.¹⁵ This inability of Camden parents to practice self-governance in their local schools is all the more worrisome given the threats to democracy and communities of color at the federal level. Returning CCSD to local control would allow Camden students and parents to have a say in their own and their children’s education respectively and potentially build the civic engagement vital to protecting democracy in these times.

III. The Continued Takeover of CCSD is Unjustified Under New Jersey Law

By New Jersey’s own standards and laws, the continued takeover of CCSD is unjustified. Under New Jersey’s state takeover law,¹⁶ the Commissioner of Education evaluates all public school districts in the state using the Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) system, which consists of five areas: Instruction and Program, Personnel, Fiscal Management, Operations, and Governance.¹⁷ State law requires the Commissioner to review and grade each district at least every three years in these five areas.¹⁸ A high performing district is one that receives between 80-100% in all five QSAC areas.¹⁹ If a district scores between 50-79% in any area, the district must develop

¹¹ Hannah Gross, “Camden parents dissatisfied, urge end to state takeover of city’s public schools,” NJ Spotlight News (Sept. 15, 2025), <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/camden-nj-parents-urge-ending-state-takeover-citys-public-schools/>.

¹² Hannah Gross, “Camden parents dissatisfied, urge end to state takeover of city’s public schools,” NJ Spotlight News (Sept. 15, 2025), <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/camden-nj-parents-urge-ending-state-takeover-citys-public-schools/>.

¹³ Hannah Gross, “Camden parents dissatisfied, urge end to state takeover of city’s public schools,” NJ Spotlight News (Sept. 15, 2025), <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/camden-nj-parents-urge-ending-state-takeover-citys-public-schools/>.

¹⁴ Catherine Carrera, “State appoints new superintendent of Camden City schools,” NJ Spotlight News (January 8, 2026), <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2026/01/state-appoints-new-superintendent-of-camden-city-schools/>.

¹⁵ Camden Parent Student Union, Instagram Post “Timeline of Continued State Sabotage of Camden Traditional Public Schools,” (Jan. 30, 2026), <https://www.instagram.com/p/DUJPijIk4gO/?stkn=MTh5ODFidXVoNzY3cg%3D%3D>.

¹⁶ N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-15.

¹⁷ N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-10 et seq; *In Re Paterson School District QSAC Appeal*, No. a1049-11 (N.J. Super. Ct. App. Div. Aug. 15, 2013).

¹⁸ N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-10 to 11.

¹⁹ N.J.S.A. 18A:7A 14(a).

and implement a plan to improve its score in that specific area, and will receive technical assistance from the Commissioner as needed under the plan.²⁰ The Commissioner may also require the district to “undergo an in-depth evaluation.”²¹ If a district successfully implements the improvement plan and achieves between 80-100% scores in all five areas, the Commissioner must issue a “letter of recognition designating the district as a high performing district.”²² If a district does not “effectively implement” the improvement plan (i.e., continues to score below 80% in any area), the Commissioner must issue the district “a letter detailing the areas in which the district remains deficient.”²³

If a district scores less than 50% in any area, it must undergo the in-depth evaluation and also develop and implement an improvement plan.²⁴ Partial state takeover can occur if a district scores less than 50% in one to four areas²⁵ and a full takeover can occur if a district scores less than 50% in all five areas.²⁶ The Department of Education should develop a state intervention plan if it intends to intervene in (i.e. take over) any area.²⁷ The state must withdraw intervention when a “district has successfully implemented the improvement plan and achieved sufficient progress in satisfying the performance indicators in one or more areas under intervention.”²⁸

Available evidence indicates that the initial full takeover of CCSD in 2013 was flawed because the state failed to conduct a timely in-depth evaluation, develop a reasonably attainable improvement plan, and provide time for CCSD to implement those improvements.²⁹ In June 2010,

²⁰ N.J.S.A. 18A:7A 14(b).

²¹ N.J.S.A. 18A:7A 14(b); Institute on Education Law and Policy, “QSAC: A Guide for School Officials and the Public,” Rutgers Newark (May 2007), <https://spaa.newark.rutgers.edu/qsac%3A-a-guide-for-school-officials-and-the-public>; Laura Waters, “Explainer: How Does the State Decide If Your School District is ‘High-Performing’?”, NJ Education Report (July 22, 2024), <https://njedreport.com/explainer-how-does-the-state-decide-if-your-school-district-is-high-performing/>.

²² N.J.S.A. 18A:7A 14(b).

²³ N.J.S.A. 18A:7A 14(b).

²⁴ N.J.S.A. 18A:7A 14(c); Institute on Education Law and Policy, “QSAC: A Guide for School Officials and the Public,” Rutgers Newark (May 2007), <https://spaa.newark.rutgers.edu/qsac%3A-a-guide-for-school-officials-and-the-public>.

²⁵ N.J.S.A. 18A:7A(c)(1), (3).

²⁶ N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14(e)(1); *but see* N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14(c)(7) (“Based on the district’s success in implementing its improvement plan, the commissioner shall make a determination to withdraw from intervention in one or more of the areas that have been under State intervention, to leave one or more areas under State intervention or **to recommend to the State Board of Education that the district be placed under full State intervention.**”) (emphasis added).

²⁷ Institute on Education Law and Policy, “QSAC: A Guide for School Officials and the Public,” Rutgers Newark (May 2007), <https://spaa.newark.rutgers.edu/qsac%3A-a-guide-for-school-officials-and-the-public>.

²⁸ N.J.S.A. 18A:7A 15(d).

²⁹ Although the takeover law appears to allow for a full takeover based on the district’s success in implementing an improvement plan (*see* N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14(c)(7)), evidence suggests that the Commissioner’s failure to comply with these procedural requirements impeded the ability of CCSD to succeed in implementing its improvement plan.

the state identified three areas in which CCSD's QSAC scores were lower than 50%.³⁰ Yet, 18 months later the state provided neither an in-depth evaluation nor an improvement plan,³¹ despite the law's requirement that the state provide both at least every six months following a triggering QSAC score.³² The state finally completed its in-depth evaluation in August 2012, recommending drastic, radical changes to the school district including hiring a new superintendent, overhauling CCSD personnel practices, and establishing a new board governance structure, among other recommendations.³³ It is unclear what if any supports were provided to the district to implement those changes,³⁴ indicating that the Commissioner may not have complied with his obligation under the takeover law "to increase district capacity through the provision of technical assistance and other measures designed to meet the district's needs."³⁵ Even when community members sought support from the state, instead of taking action required by law, Governor Chris Christie laid the blame on Camden, calling their schools "failing."³⁶

Commissioner Christopher Cerf then filed an order to initiate a full takeover of CCSD in March 2013, just *seven months* after the in-depth evaluation was provided to the district.³⁷ The order failed to mention the more-than-two-year delay in the state providing the legally required in-depth evaluation or improvement plan, whether the state provided any technical assistance or other measures to meet the district's needs as required under law, or the unrealistic seven-month timeframe given to implement the massive changes recommended by the state. Under these circumstances, it is no surprise that Camden community members initially viewed the state takeover as illegitimate.

Today, questions concerning the legitimacy of the state takeover have grown. By the state's own rubric and measurement, CCSD is currently high performing in four QSAC areas, and very nearly high performing in the remaining area. An April 2026 CCSD Board Meeting presentation revealed that the state rated CCSD at 70% in Instruction and Program, 83% in Fiscal Management, 87% in Governance, 92% in Operations, and 87% in Personnel. These QSAC scores are an improvement

³⁰ David Sciarra, "Letter to Acting Commissioner Christopher Cerf re: In-Depth Evaluation of Camden Public Schools," Education Law Center (Jan. 18, 2012),

<https://edlawcenter.org/assets/files/pdfs/Newsblasts/Camden%20QSAC%20Letter%20to%20DOE.pdf>, citing "Letter from former Commissioner Bret Schundler to Camden Superintendent B. LeFra Young," (Jun. 4, 2010).

³¹ Education Law Center, "NJ ED Commissioner Fails to Help Improve Camden Public Schools," (Jan. 19, 2012), <https://edlawcenter.org/nj-ed-commissioner-fails-to-help-improve-camden-public-schools/>.

³² N.J.S.A. 18A:7A 14(c)(1); N.J.S.A. 18A:7A 14(e)(1).

³³ Christopher Cerf, "Camden City Public Schools In-Depth QSAC Evaluation," New Jersey Dep't. of Ed. (Aug. 9, 2012), <https://dspace.njstatelib.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/a0394ae8-9d30-4d96-b7b5-09220a2de128/content>.

³⁴ Christopher Cerf, "Camden City Public Schools In-Depth QSAC Evaluation," New Jersey Dep't. of Ed. (Aug. 9, 2012), <https://dspace.njstatelib.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/a0394ae8-9d30-4d96-b7b5-09220a2de128/content>.

³⁵ N.J.S.A. 18A:7A 14(c)(1).

³⁶ Education Law Center, "NJ ED Commissioner Fails to Help Improve Camden Public Schools," (Jan. 19, 2012), <https://edlawcenter.org/nj-ed-commissioner-fails-t-help-improve-camden-public-schools/>.

³⁷ Order to Show Cause *In the Matter of the Camden City School District, Camden County*, N.J. Att'y Gen. (Mar. 22, 2013), <https://dspace.njstatelib.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/6dd65e11-1638-4303-a1b5-dab2011db8cf/content>.

from 2024, in which CCSD received high-performing marks in three out of five areas: 57% in Instruction and Program, 79% in Fiscal Management, 87% in Governance, 87% in Personnel, and 92% in Operations. No district in the state would be taken over if they had the QSAC scores and sustained improvement that CCSD currently has.

Under the state takeover law, “[i]f the district has successfully implemented the improvement plan and achieved sufficient progress in satisfying the performance indicators in one or more areas under intervention, the state *shall* withdraw from intervention in those areas.”³⁸

QSAC Scores by Year	Instruction and Program	Fiscal Management	Governance	Operations	Personnel
2010	13%	73%	11%	53%	36%
2013	9%	79%	33%	47%	19%
2024	57%	79%	87%	92%	87%
2026	70% (+61%)	83% (+4%)	87% (+54%)	92% (+45%)	87% (+68%)

CCSD has met both these factors, showing both successful implementation of the improvement plan as well as significant progress in the QSAC areas. Indeed, several current members of the State Board of Education have served throughout the state takeover and witnessed the sustained and continuous improvement in CCSD’s QSAC scores. And yet, not a single factor has been returned to local control. Nor has any state board member advocated to transition to a partial rather than a full takeover of CCSD despite the state taking such action for other school districts. For example, when Newark Public Schools received a high performing score in Operations in 2007, the SBOE returned local control in that area to the district the following year.³⁹

The state continuing to exercise control over CCSD is contrary to the stated purpose of the state takeover law and QSAC system, which is to provide “an effective and efficient system of evaluation and monitoring” that allows a district to exit state control through “immediate and direct corrective action...within the context of the maximum of local governance and management.”⁴⁰ Thus, keeping communities disenfranchised by controlling local school systems indefinitely or for decades at a time clearly contravenes with the law’s goals of efficiency, effectiveness, and maximizing local governance.

IV. The Takeover of CCSD Has Harmed Communities and Has Not Improved Education for Camden Students

³⁸ N.J.S.A. 18A:7A 15(d) (emphasis added).

³⁹ Anzella King-Nelms, “Transition Plan for the Return of Local Control to Newark Public Schools,” N.J. Dept. of Ed. (Jan. 2020),

<https://www.nj.gov/education/sboe/meetings/agenda/2020/July/public/5b1a%20HSP%20Final%20Report.pdf>.

⁴⁰ N.J.S.A. 18A:7A 14a.

Instead of improving the district, the state takeover of CCSD has only served to harm students, families, and communities.

According to education and civil rights advocates, the state takeover has been a tool of school privatization “misused by prior administrations to promote so-called ‘education reform.’”⁴¹ Instead of providing “corrective actions without delay in order to remedy...[any] deficiencies” within the district,⁴² “the State ... moved aggressively to close and replace district schools in the State-operated districts through the rapid expansion of charter schools.”⁴³ In the 2012-2013 school year, the last year before the state takeover, Camden charters enrolled 3,644 students (22.4% of public school students),⁴⁴ while CCSD enrolled 11,990 students (77.6%).⁴⁵ By the 2023-2024 school year, CCSD’s share of student enrollment in Camden dropped to 5,852 students—36% of the city’s 16,722 total students.⁴⁶ Charters and renaissance⁴⁷ schools made up nearly two-thirds (64%) of total enrollment in that year. Enrollment in CCSD has been decimated, as students fled the district for charter and renaissance schools during the state takeover. Research shows that charter schools have mixed results academically and contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline.⁴⁸

The state takeover has led to school closures despite community opposition

The state takeover of CCSD has also wreaked havoc on district schools themselves—with many schools closing since 2013. At the behest of the state, CCSD pushed through closures despite parents warning that closures would “destroy their kids’ opportunities for success, pulling them out of their community, forcing long commutes and putting them in overcrowded classrooms with teachers who don’t know them.”⁴⁹ Research supports these warnings: school closures negatively affect students academically, in future career growth, and socio-emotionally, in addition to the

⁴¹ Education Law Center, “Time To End State District Takeover in New Jersey,” (Dec. 5, 2018), <https://edlawcenter.org/time-to-end-state-district-takeover-in-new-jersey/>.

⁴² N.J.S.A. 18A:7A 14a.

⁴³ Education Law Center, “Time To End State District Takeover in New Jersey,” (Dec. 5, 2018), <https://edlawcenter.org/time-to-end-state-district-takeover-in-new-jersey/>.

⁴⁴ Rob Tornoe, “Declining enrollment in Camden schools result of charter growth,” WHYY (Apr. 4, 2014), <https://whyy.org/articles/declining-enrollment-in-camden-schools-result-of-charter-growth/>.

⁴⁵ Camden City School District, “Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022,” <https://www.nj.gov/education/finance/fp/acfr/search/22/0680.pdf>.

⁴⁶ Laura Waters, “How is Camden’s Innovative School System Moving the Needle for New Jersey Students,” The 74 Million (May 23, 2024), <https://www.the74million.org/article/how-is-camdens-innovative-school-system-moving-the-needle-for-new-jersey-students/>.

⁴⁷ Renaissance schools are a hybrid charter model created by the New Jersey Urban Hope Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:36C, in which tax-exempt entities partner with school districts to operate individual schools with limited community input on decision-making and governance issues.

⁴⁸ Joseph J. Ferrare, “NEPC Review: As a Matter of Fact: National Charter School Study III 2023 (Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO), June 2023),” NEPC (Sept. 7, 2023), https://nepc.colorado.edu/review/charter-study?utm_source=search&utm_campaign=nepc_visitors; Alexandria Millet, “The Charter-to-Prison Pipeline,” The Progressive Magazine (Oct. 22, 2019), <https://progressive.org/public-schools-advocate/charter-to-prison-pipeline-millet-191022/>.

⁴⁹ Joanna Gaggis, “Outrage in Camden over closure of three elementary schools,” NJ Spotlight News (Mar. 9, 2021), <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/outrage-in-camden-over-closure-of-three-elementary-schools/>.

harms to the community of losing an institutional neighborhood pillar.⁵⁰ We still believe in the power of traditional public schools to serve as loving, safe, neighborhood institutions that meet the needs of their communities. We cannot abandon them in favor of schools unaccountable to the people.

Repeatedly since the takeover, budget issues have been a perennial scapegoat for school closures and staff layoffs in Camden. In 2014, CCSD used a \$47 million budget gap to justify laying off 241 positions and closing schools.⁵¹ In 2021, CCSD again blamed a budget gap to justify closing three district schools.⁵² Yet these staff layoffs and school closures are not only detrimental to communities, they often contribute to a death spiral that leads to further enrollment declines, resulting in less state funding, worsening budget woes, and even more school closures and staff layoffs.⁵³ Each time CCSD proposed closures, they ignored significant community opposition.⁵⁴ Our organizations advocate for actual solutions that would provide our schools with the supports they need, such as implementing the Sustainable Community Schools model. There is now a \$91 million deficit,⁵⁵ and community members are rightfully outraged and worried that this will mean more school closures in CCSD.⁵⁶

V. Side with Camden Parents and Students and Return Schools to Local Control

For the aforementioned reasons, we urge state leadership to deliver our schools back to democratic control so that parents and Camden residents have a say in their school communities. We respectfully **request a meeting with your offices** to discuss our demands, which are that:

1. Commissioner Laux recommend that the SBOE return local control to CCSD for all QSAC factors;

⁵⁰ See, Advancement Project, “What the Research Says About the Effects of School Closures,” <https://advancementproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/One-Pager-School-Closure-harms.pdf>.

⁵¹ Rann Miller, “For all the Talk About School Competition in Camden, Families Really Haven’t Had a Choice,” The Progressive Magazine (Apr. 24, 2019), <https://progressive.org/public-schools-advocate/camden-families-havent-a-choice-schools-miller-190424/>.

⁵² Rann Miller, “In Camden, School Closures Revealed How Unequal the System Can Be,” The Progressive Magazine (May 18, 2021), <https://progressive.org/public-schools-advocate/camden-school-closures-unequal-system-miller-210518/>.

⁵³ Caitlynn Peetz Stephens, “Closing a School? Don’t Expect to Save Money, a New Study Warns,” Education Week (Jun. 11, 2026), <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/closing-a-school-dont-expect-to-save-money-a-new-study-warns/2026/06>.

⁵⁴ NJ Spotlight News, News segment: “Parents protest Camden school district closing more schools,” (Jan. 19, 2021), <https://youtu.be/B2gM7n6AaIk?si=KkZkIvIPxApnqAO6>.

⁵⁵ Additionally, this deficit calls into question the validity of the Fiscal Management QSAC evaluation system writ large, as it is unclear how the district has been able to achieve a high score while at the same time having such a large deficit. Our organization has attempted to gain answers about this deficit and have been met with silence from district and state leaders.

⁵⁶ Camden PSU, Facebook post: “Camden schools’ \$91 million budget deficit demands transparency and accountability,” (Jul. 4, 2026), <https://www.facebook.com/camdenparentunion/posts/a-91-million-budget-deficit-doesnt-happen-in-a-single-dayit-is-the-result-of-yea/1440472511454836/>.



2. Members of the SBOE vote to return CCSD to local control for all QSAC factors;
3. Governor Sherrill immediately nominate and fill all expired seats on the SBOE with board members who commit to prioritizing high quality, well-funded, *democratically controlled* public schools for all New Jersey families; and
4. Commissioner Laux attend our upcoming community town hall in Camden on October 8, 2026.

Sincerely,

Ronsha Dickerson
Executive Director
Camden Parent & Student Union

Jessica Alcantara
Senior Staff Attorney,* Opportunity to Learn
Advancement Project
**Admitted to practice in NY and D.C.*