

LEADERSHIP for EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

October 14, 2003

Members

New Jersey Association
Of School Administrators

New Jersey Association of
School Business Officials

New Jersey Congress
of Parents and Teachers

New Jersey
Education Association

New Jersey Principals and
Supervisors Association

New Jersey
School Boards Association

To Members of New Jersey's Congressional Delegation:

The attached position paper, *Standards, Accountability and Common Sense*, suggests reforms for the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) as proposed by the Leadership for Educational Excellence (LEE) Group, a consortium of New Jersey's major educational associations.

In the 18 months since NCLB became law, it has been a cause of significant concern to educators, parents, boards of education and communities. Without revision, we believe that NCLB will have a number of negative unintended consequences.

As now structured, the law compromises the ability of schools to address the unique needs of special education students and those of limited English proficiency. It also unfairly penalizes successful schools that are making gains in student achievement. These factors go against the spirit of the Act, which was designed to provide accountability and ensure the proficiency of all students.

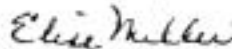
We are also concerned that NCLB's mandates are imposing financial burdens on local communities during this time of economic hardship.

The LEE Group's recommendations will make the implementation of the Act consistent with its original intent and will help the public schools attain the laudable goals of No Child Left Behind.

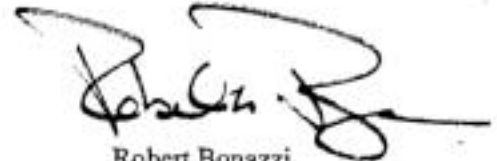
Sincerely,



Edward Meglis
Executive Director
NJ Assoc. of School Bus. Off.



Elise Miller
President
NJ Cong. of Par. & Teach.



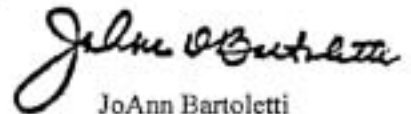
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