

**NEW JERSEY STATE CONFERENCE OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF COLORED PEOPLE**

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW JERSEY NAACP SATISFIED WITH SUPREME COURT DECISION TO UPHOLD ITS COMMITMENT TO DISENFRANCHISED DISTRICTS

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The NJ Supreme Court ruled that the State's failure to fund the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) caused "instructionally consequential and significant" harm to at-risk students in districts across the state. The Court also found that the harm to NJ schoolchildren from the funding cut is not a "minor infringement" to their right to a thorough and efficient education, but "a real substantial and consequential blow" to that right.

The New Jersey State Conference of NAACP has publicly stated the fact that public money should go to the public schools and that there needs to be a consistent commitment toward public education especially in the disenfranchised districts. The NAACP is satisfied that the NJ Supreme Court has reaffirmed its longstanding commitment to protect the constitutional rights of needy school children, even in difficult economic times.

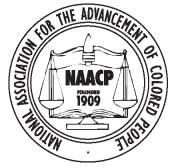
Part of the NAACP's responsibility is to seek to close and ultimately eliminate the opportunity and achievement gaps experienced by communities of color. We believe that the age of establishing outcome standards without making input investments to achieve these outcomes must end. For far too long, communities of color have been testing grounds for unproven methods of educational change while all levels of government have resisted the tough decisions required to expand access to effective educational methods.

We agree with the Governor's call for a comprehensive accountability system as a necessity to gauge the effective implementation of the state's educational standards and thereby ensuring that all students are able to achieve high outcomes. We agree there is a need for independent audits of state and district education expenditures are required whenever students from historically disadvantaged subgroups persistently fail to meet, or fail to make reasonable progress towards, college- and career-bound

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outcome standards. However it must be developed with community input.

The NAACP will continue to be diligent in supporting the public education system throughout the State of New Jersey because everyone should have the right to a quality public education. Although the court's decision does not resolve all of the issues with public education funding, this is a step in the right direction. Governor Christie and the Legislature now must under the SFRA law attempt to remedy the harmful impact of the FY11 formula aid cuts on at-risk students.

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Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in education and in the public and private sectors. The NAACP is organized into State Conferences and Regions, and the New Jersey State Conference has 42 units or branches, a prison unit and increasing units or chapters on college and university campuses throughout the state. For more information about the New Jersey State NAACP, please visit us on the web at www.njnaacp.org.