

We
LOVE



New Jersey's Public Schools
Parents for Public Schools

#REDFORED

We're looking to return respect to New Jersey's public schools, and we need the support of parents to help us win the respect we deserve. We work with children, parents and community members every day. As educators, the parents of the students we educate want us to succeed. Do you know three parents who are willing to step up to help bring respect back to public education?

This document will help you to bring parents together who are proud to show that they love New Jersey's public schools.

Talking points to use when talking with parents about supporting our campaign:

- **Keep experienced educators in the classrooms:** Children perform best when they are supported by the whole educational team. Too often, lack of funding, unexpected losses in state aid, or misplaced budgetary priorities force professional educators out of the classroom. Lack of funding, privatization and the high cost of health care play key roles in pushing educators out of classrooms. As parents, use your voice to help legislators understand how important it is to keep experienced educators in the classroom.
- **Maintain and improve student learning conditions:** When schools aren't properly funded, children lose. Adequate school funding helps schools keep class sizes down, regulate classroom temperatures and maintain relevant resources for learning. Proper funding increases students' access to a variety of educational experiences. Curricular opportunities for students become further constrained when standardized tests such as New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (aka PARCC) infringe upon instructional time. Curricular opportunities should be focused on inquiry and not simply on academic measurement. As parents, your voice is critical to changing legislators' minds on issues that affect teaching and learning in classrooms.

- **Children are our focus:** We chose this career to educate children. However, it is difficult for us to put in the time necessary to educate children when we must work two and three jobs to pay our own bills. The rising cost of health care for educators in New Jersey has demanded that we take on other work to support our own families. Children deserve educators who can focus on them without having to divert their energy to working multiple jobs. We need you to help us restore respect by talking with your elected representatives about the importance of affordable health care that will enable us to focus more time on students.

- **Less is not more:** There is no end in sight for our economic insecurities. There are many issues that force public schools to do more with less. We've chosen this profession because working with children and helping them grow is our passion. To provide a relevant 21st-Century education, we need to have the proper resources. These resources are allocated by New Jersey's politicians. As a parent of a child in public school, you can share the stories of what happens in our classrooms when we are forced to do more with the less.

- **We want to keep profiteers out of public schools:** If we continue down the path we are currently on, many local communities will become perfect environments for public charter schools to open and drain more resources from public schools. We need to work together to restore public education as the state's number one priority and keep the reputation of New Jersey's public schools among the best in the nation.

What you can do right now:

- **Talk about these issues with family and friends:** Talk with people in your community about these issues. The more people that understand the situation, the more people we will have to help us address the systemic problems created by misguided and outdated legislation that negatively affects how children learn.
- **Take a lawn sign:** This lawn sign will let your friends and family know much you care about and support New Jersey's public schools.

