

Parents and Communities United for Education (PCUE)

Jersey City Chapter of statewide Education Organizing Committee (SEOC)

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**PCUE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION OPPOSING
SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM ACT**

Hello my name is Loyda Goldston, and I a mother of three children in School # 34. Also, I am the 1st Vice-president of Parents and Communities United for Education (PCUE). PCUE is the Jersey City chapter of Statewide Education Organizing Committee. PCUE is committed to educational equity and justice for all Jersey City children.

As you know, the SFRA was pushed through the legislatures during the holiday season and was passed by a very small majority on January 7, 2008. We strongly feel that SFRA shortchanges our children and compounds problems in our neighborhoods. It will reverse decades of efforts to provide educational equity for children in poor urban districts, predominantly made up of black and Latino communities. In concrete terms, this will mean cutting staff time, slashing social service and academic support programs that assist our children to stay in schools, perform better, and achieve academic excellence. It will endanger funding for the pre-school Abbot program and special education, to name a few. The majority of our schools are already struggling to meet standards set forth by No Child Left Behind. What they need now is more support not less. We have worked hard and will continue our effort to educate and organize our communities for a fair and equitable school funding.

At this crucial time while the NJ Supreme Court is considering a decision on the constitutionality of SFRA, we need our city leaders to come forward and speak out. We need them to let the public and court know that they oppose efforts by Governor Corzine to slash our school funding.

As parents of children in our public schools, we thank Councilwoman Viola Richardson for presenting the resolution on fair school funding to this council. We also appreciate all members of the City Council for supporting it. We look forward to working with you in making our schools a better place for our children.

We thank you very much.