

## **Jersey City Parents Group Taking Graduation for All Campaign to Christie Today**

By Melissa Hayes  
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A group of Jersey City residents is heading to the Statehouse in Trenton today to call on newly installed governor Chris Christie to make drastic changes to improve the quality of education in urban districts.

About 15 members of the Jersey City chapter of Parents and Communities United for Education will join the four other chapters in the state to launch their "Graduation For All Campaign" at 11 a.m.

"Our goal is to bring the awareness to the governor and to let him know the challenges that we're facing here in New Jersey," said Susan Curry, lead organizer of the Jersey City chapter. The platform calls for more parental involvement and includes an urban schools reform initiative.

The groups, which are all under the umbrella of the State Education Organization Collaborative, are also seeking support for the New Jersey Secondary Education Redesign Review Act, which would require the state Department of Education to submit a report to the Legislature before implementing its secondary education redesign proposal.

The legislation, which is sponsored locally by Assemblyman Ruben Ramos, D-Hoboken, stalled in the last session, but the redesign is being implemented.

The redesign continues to allow students who cannot pass the High School Proficiency Assessment to graduate by taking a secondary exam. But the state has made this secondary exam tougher.

"We surveyed six high schools in Jersey City and we found that they were not equipped with the resources needed to provide these courses," Curry said about the tougher test.

"If you don't have the resources then our children are being set up to fail."