



State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 4, 2003

To the New Jersey School Community,

On behalf of the State of New Jersey, we are very pleased to welcome you back to school for the 2003-04 school year. We understand what the week ahead means to our students, parents, teachers and administrators.

The first week is a time to renew friendships, settle in and find new experiences and challenges each day. The first week will soon become the first month, and so on — each new experience as valuable as the previous ones. With that in mind, we want to wish you well and good luck this year. We are confident the good work you do will take you far.

Education remains the top priority of this administration. We established literacy standards for the early grades to ensure children are reading at or above grade level by the end of the third grade and encouraged a lifelong love of reading with the Governor's Book Club. We have supported teachers with mentoring programs for new teachers and uniform preparation standards for teachers and school administrators. We have invested over \$2 billion in over 1,000 schools for improvements, new construction and additions.

In turn, the Department has a number of new and exciting initiatives to share with you in the near future. These include announcements for the Governor's Schools of Excellence program, our P-12 initiatives and a host of programs made possible through the Department's Network of Schools. For more information about these programs, please visit the Department's Website often. We are confident you will find a plethora of useful information there.

Again, best wishes for a successful school year. We are optimistic about all the important work in all of our schools and the continued progress we all will make this coming year. Thank you, and welcome back to school.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James E. McGreevey'.

James E. McGreevey
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'W. Librera'.

William L. Librera, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education