



NJ CHARTER SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

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NJCSA CALLS ON NJDOE TO REVERSE DECISION THAT EXCLUDES PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL SECURITY GRANTS

Yesterday, the New Jersey Charter Schools Association (NJCSA) submitted comments to the New Jersey Department of Education and the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education on the proposed rules for Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act. As proposed, the rules explicitly exclude public charter schools from being eligible to receive grants for school security funding.

"It is deeply troubling that public charter and renaissance schools are singled out as the only schools in New Jersey being denied access to critical security funding grants," said Harry Lee, President of NJCSA. "Amid a rise in hate crimes around the country, including the recent attack in Jersey City, it is more important than ever we work to ensure all of our schools and all of our students are safe."

The DOE's proposal is contrary to the public comments of Governor Murphy about protecting all students and all schools. In fact, upon signing legislation, which increased security aid for non-public schools, Governor Murphy said, "Our administration is tasked with the vital responsibility of ensuring the safety and security of all New Jerseyans." In addition, the proposed rules defy legislative intent to provide funding to help all schools and students.

"The legislation did not create a secondary class of public school students," Lee said. "Without access to critical security funding, the public safety of 54,000 charter school students is at risk."

NJCSA's submitted comments note that under the proposed rules, public charter schools would be responsible for the security upgrades without any means of paying for them.

"If implemented, the DOE proposal would not only prioritize the safety of some students over other students, it would also amount to an unfunded State mandate and put a further strain on already-depleted public charter school budgets," Lee added. "As is, on average, public charter schools receive more than \$4,000 less per pupil than their district peers and zero dollars for their school facilities. This must be fixed."

A full copy of [NJCSA's comments](#) and a [letter from Senator Oroho and Senator Bucco](#) are attached.

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About New Jersey Charter Schools Association

The New Jersey Charter Schools Association (NJCSA) is a statewide association representing the state's charter sector. New Jersey is home to 88 charter schools, serving more than 54,000 children. NJCSA was formed in 1999 and today is charged with advancing a quality public education for New Jersey's children through quality public charter schools. Our vision is that every child in the State of New Jersey has the opportunity to attend a high-quality public school that best meets his or her needs. For more information, visit www.njcharters.org.