



HISPANIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
of NEW JERSEY

Building Bridges to a Better Life

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Education Summit Critical to Protect Education Programs for Latino Children

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The Hispanic Directors Association of New Jersey (HDANJ) is a member of **Our Children/Our Schools Campaign** which is sponsoring the **Abbott Mobilization Summit: Extending the Promise of Abbott to All of NJ's Children** to be held on January 27 at Passaic County Community College, College Boulevard in Paterson from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Most sessions will be bilingual.

One goal of the summit is to ensure that program funding for the state's most economically disadvantaged school districts (known as the Abbott districts) is safeguarded as state government officials consider property tax reform and additional educational funding.

This summit, which includes a broad range of statewide organizations, will map strategy to deal with the dual challenge of property tax reform and the need to provide funding for economically disadvantaged students in non-Abbott districts.

The issue is crucial to the future of the Latino community because 55 percent of Latino children attend schools in the Abbott districts. Governor Jon Corzine is considering proposals to extend Abbott funding to other districts with a high percentage of economically disadvantaged children.

“We want to be sure that in the restructuring process the children in the state's poorest districts, many of them Latinos, are not hurt by the process,” said Daniel Santo Pietro, executive director of the Hispanic Directors Association. “At the same time, we want to extend the promise of Abbott to economically disadvantaged students regardless of where they live.”

“There are some who wish to take money from the poor and give it to the rich,” Santo Pietro continued. “Some are advocating greater funding for suburban districts without fully understanding the challenges created by poverty in the state's poorest districts.”



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For further information on attending the summit contact Anna V. at 973-881-8914. Parents and educational leaders from across the state are welcome.