



New Jersey Coalition Against Racial Exclusion (NJ-CARE)

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NJ-CARE Responds to Acting Commissioner of Education Decision to Deny Absecon School Board Petition to Sever Ties with Pleasantville.

Today, a deadly blow was struck against the demonic and opportunity-destroying structure of racial and economic segregation in New Jersey.

With the [denial of the Absecon school district's petition](#) to secede from Pleasantville High School, Acting Commissioner of Education Allen-McMillan has upheld the integrity of the New Jersey Constitution while defending and protecting our students and children.

Low-income and majority Black and brown students, such as those in Pleasantville, are the most vulnerable and helpless people in our society. It is too easy for administrators and political leaders to demagogue about racial justice and educational opportunity while ignoring the harms of segregation to the most powerless among us – the students.

We applaud the Acting Commissioner for her wisdom and her willingness to face down the politically powerful and well-funded army of consultants, so called “experts” and lawyers arrayed against the children of segregated schools in New Jersey. Her decision [cites and agrees with the leaders of the New Jersey Coalition Against Racial Exclusion](#) who “strenuously objected to the severance, maintaining that it would completely isolate Pleasantville as a segregated and impoverished district, and would leave its students without any hope of an integrated and inclusive education.”

While this is a small victory against a state public school system riddled with deep and enduring racial segregation, it is a first step in exposing and dismantling a racist structure that cannot be reformed by well-meaning people in Pleasantville or even Absecon.

Governor Murphy must now act with the courage of his Acting Commissioner of Education and follow the lead of NJ-CARE to use this opportunity to support and push for a [transformative legislative remedy](#) to fully dismantle the stigmatizing and soul crushing system of segregation in our public schools.