



Annette Romano  
Mayor of Millburn Township  
22 E Willow St  
Millburn, NJ 07041

September 17, 2025

Dear Mayor Romano,

On August 6, 2025, the Millburn Schools rejected a request for my 5-year-old son to attend kindergarten in Millburn, citing a “residency rule” as the reason for closing a doorway of possibility. On August 27, fifty clergy and civil rights marchers from across the region and state accompanied me back to Millburn to demand that its school district comply with the New Jersey Constitution and open its classrooms to my son and to children from segregated schools across the region. In a state that touts excellence, justice must no longer be rationed by zip code, and learning must never be gated by walls policy built.

We delivered [a letter with a proposal for Millburn](#) to do this by becoming a *choice district* and inviting students from high-poverty districts to make Millburn better reflect the demographics of the region, state, and county. The letter describes how Millburn’s residency restriction, coupled with its historic resistance to affordable housing, has resulted in Millburn becoming a racially and economically exclusionary school district in violation of state law that explicitly guarantees an adequate education free from racial segregation for all children. Millburn's discriminatory behavior, by keeping Black, brown, and poor students out, has caused poverty to concentrate in urban districts as well as many working and middle-class suburban neighborhoods.

To remedy this, Millburn must become a *choice district* and use the tools afforded it by the State of New Jersey with the *Interdistrict Public School Choice Program* to implement an integration plan as we have outlined in the [letter to the Millburn School Board](#).

We look forward to meeting with you soon to discuss this in more detail. In the meantime, [please sign-on here](#) to support this very realistic and meaningful proposal for creating inclusive opportunities for all children. By signing, you agree that Millburn must take these or comparable steps to become a choice district that reflects the demographic diversity of its region and of our state.

The abhorrent and unconstitutional segregation of New Jersey’s schools must be addressed by our state legislators and the governor. However, they have all failed to act, despite Building One New Jersey offering comprehensive and feasible state-level solutions to eliminate this unjust and evil systemic neglect. Until our legislative leaders and governor summon the courage to meaningfully tackle school segregation, we must demand that Millburn and similar districts take the necessary steps to begin to reverse the harms caused by their years of exclusionary policies and practices.

Liberating the world through Love,

Rev. Dr. Willie D. Francois III  
Senior Pastor, Fountain Baptist Church, Summit, NJ  
President, Building One America / Building One New Jersey  
Chair, NJ Coalition Against Racial Exclusion (NJ-CARE)