



Press Release

535 Parents & Students from 42 School Districts Converge on Albany to Lobby for All Students

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, January, 10, 2012

Date of press conference

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press conference*



*Introduction
paragraph*

(Albany)—More than 535 parents and students from 42 school districts across New York rallied in Albany for quality education and to prepare every student for college and careers. The parents, lobbying on behalf of their children, and students, lobbying on their own behalf, called for the Governor to prioritize equity and educational opportunity in his public schools budget.



*Quotes from
participants
at press
conference*

"Last year's \$1.3 billion cut was two to three times as large in poor districts as in wealthy districts," said **Zakiyah Ansari, Advocacy Director of the Alliance for Quality Education**. "The Governor has a chance to take a step in the right direction for our schools and children by following the Board of Regents recommendations and directing 95% of his new school aid to high need and average need schools." Ms. Ansari is the mother of eight students who are either enrolled in the New York City public schools or have graduated.

"If New York is to be a progressive leader among states, it must fulfill its commitment to equity and opportunity in every classroom. The alternative is both morally indefensible and strategically unwise. It is clear today, the people must push their leaders to this level of systemic accountability," said **Dr. John Jackson, President and CEO of The Schott Foundation for Public Education**. Dr. Jackson, who founded the national Opportunity to Learn Campaign, spoke to parents about the successful reforms of international educational leaders.

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the press release*



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