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Thirty Schools Recognized for Outstanding Parent Involvement Programs

Thirty schools from 16 districts were honored this week for creating successful parental involvement programs. The schools were selected for special cash grants in the fourth annual Parent Participation Program. The New Jersey Department of Education created the program to recognize and encourage the development of exemplary parent involvement programs in the 30 Abbott school districts.

Cash grants of \$3,000 each were awarded to schools in Asbury Park, Camden, Elizabeth, Harrison, Hoboken, Irvington, Jersey City, Millville, Neptune, Newark, New Brunswick, Orange, Passaic, Paterson, Perth Amboy, and Phillipsburg.

A recognition ceremony held on Monday, September 23, served to showcase outstanding programs that enable parents to use community and school resources to actively participate in their children's education. Schools throughout the state are invited to look to these schools as models for their programs.

"When parents and teachers form successful partnerships, they strengthen the capacity of the school to educate all children," said Commissioner of Education William L. Librera. "Our schools have put forth tremendous efforts to create programs that promote family involvement and we are extremely proud of them."

Parent involvement programs include training workshops, volunteer programs, education services, and opportunities for parents to participate in the governance of schools through school management teams.

All public schools in the Abbott districts were eligible to compete for the awards. Winners were selected by an independent panel of education under the auspices of the Office of Program Planning and Design, Division of Abbott Implementation.