

3/3/15

Testimony Submitted by Dionne Raines
In Support of the Parent Trust Fund and Family School Connection

- Below, is background information from the Partnership Coordinator of the Middlesex County Parent Leadership Training Institute, where I am currently taking part in this year's training session February – May 2015.
- Over the past 15 years Donna Marino and Rebecca Deotte, the Parent Leadership Coordinators have been involved with Parent Leadership Programs in Middletown and Middlesex County; have helped parents become advocates and leaders for themselves their children, their families and their communities.
- These parent leadership training programs - Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI), Parents Supporting Educational Excellence (Parents SEE) and People Empowering People (PEP) -are currently funded through a collaboration of local grants, in-kind match and the Parent Trust Fund. These programs are family civic initiatives supported by **the Commission on Children**.
- This program is an invaluable asset to our community! As a participant, it is teaching me and other parents in my session, the proper tools and techniques to fully engage in Civic advocacy - for all children.
- Through the Parent Leadership Training Institute, Parents become actively involved in their community and initiate change for the better.
- For example, there is a direct correlation of Parent advocacy to our successful reinvention as a school district here in Middlesex County. Through the coordinating efforts of the Middlesex Parent Leadership Training Institute, dedicated parents and citizens were able to successful change the former Board of Education structure.
- **Remember parents are our children's first teachers and role models. Civic minded, engaged parents create civic minded, engaged children. The Sphere of Influence grows ten-fold, to benefit everyone**

Summary/ My Call to Action:

- PLTI, PEP and Parents SEE are currently funded through a collaboration of grants including the **Parent Trust Fund**.
- **Parent Trust dollars help local communities leverage dollars from other organizations/foundations.**
- Funding is needed from the Parent Trust Fund to continue to run these extremely successful programs.

I ask that you **oppose the** Governor's proposed budget.

Thank you,
Dionne Raines, PSEE Participant Current Session 2015