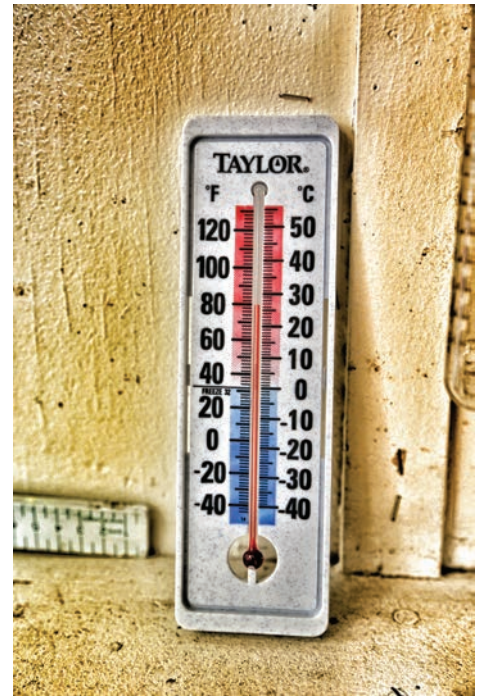


# a blind eye:

the immorality  
of inaction



Broken window in an in-use classroom,  
Elementary School No. 20, Paterson.



Temperature inside an in-use classroom,  
October 7, Elementary School No. 20, Paterson.



Hallway wall, Elementary School No. 20, Paterson.

New Jersey public schools are among the very best in the country. We have a long-standing commitment to equity and opportunity.

But the Christie Administration's utter failure to address the deplorable conditions in too many public schools is a direct affront to those core New Jersey values. And in nearly every case, the schools that have been neglected are in New Jersey's urban communities.



Exposed wall switch in a student bathroom,  
Elementary School No. 20, Paterson.



Bathroom used by students, Elementary School No. 20, Paterson.

Under this administration, repairs, renovations and construction in decaying and dangerous schools in 31 designated high-priority districts have ground to a halt. Our children are left struggling to learn in conditions that are not just deplorable, but truly immoral.

Students should not be asked to learn in damp, drafty, rodent-infested rooms. They should be able to get a drink without wondering if the pipes are delivering tainted water. They should not sit next to crumbling, mold-infested walls as they eat lunch. When students are so accustomed to rain-flooded floors that they nickname a hallway "the waterfall," adults have failed them.

And the adults who have failed New Jersey's children are the Governor and his appointees at the Schools Development Authority.



Trenton Central High School cafeteria.



Mouse droppings in an in-use classroom, Elementary School No. 20, Paterson.



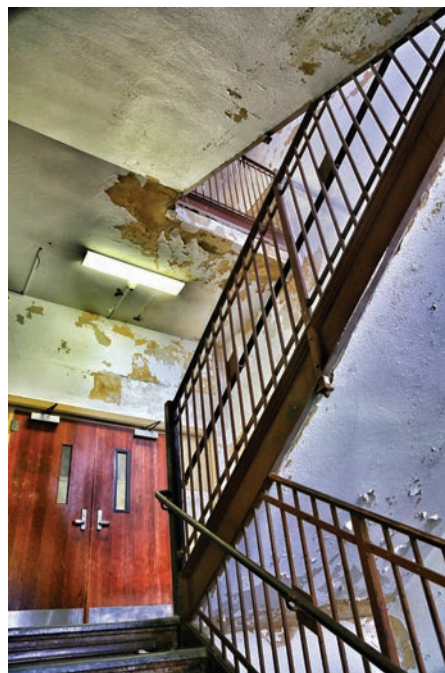
Warped floorboards in an in-use classroom, Elementary School No. 20, Paterson.



Trenton Central High School Principal Hope Grant points out the roof leak that feeds rainwater to the staircase known to students as "The Waterfall."



Trenton Central High School Principal Hope Grant escorts a visitor up the staircase known to students as "The Waterfall."



Trenton Central High School staircase known to students as "The Waterfall."



Jada Bailey, one of the two courageous students who invited Governor Christie to tour Trenton Central High School, seated in an abandoned classroom.

Photo by Andrew Wilkinson, [www.wilkinsonmedia.net](http://www.wilkinsonmedia.net)

They have offered endless delays, excuses and blame. But our children deserve action and solutions.

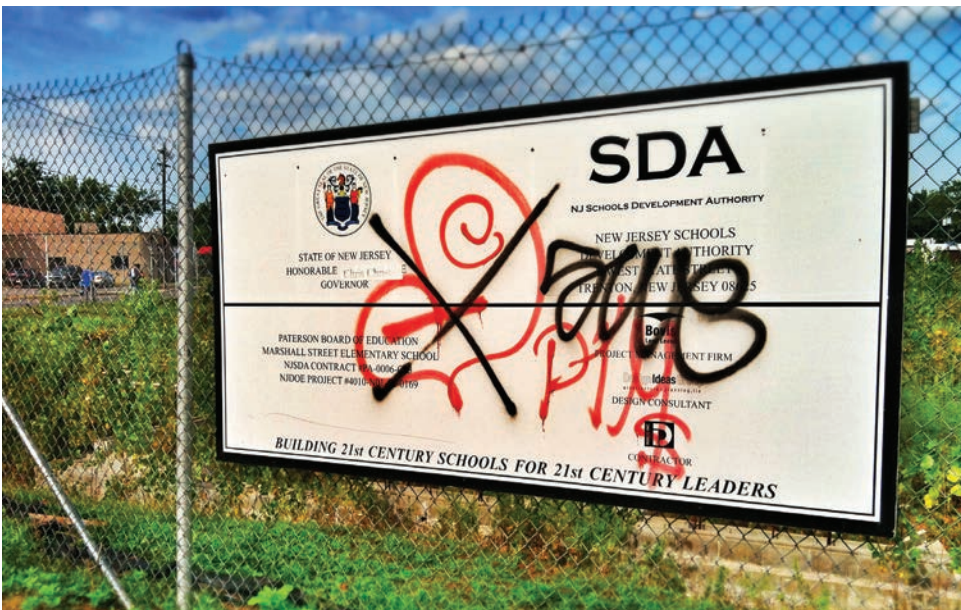
No amount of routine maintenance can compensate for this structural neglect. And SDA districts are not allowed, under the law, to budget for or independently undertake the costly repairs required in these schools.

There can be no other conclusion: this administration is insincere in its oft-proclaimed commitment to children and is discriminatory in the treatment of the SDA districts. 95% of priority schools (ones being



Seven Alford, one of the two courageous students who invited Governor Christie to tour Trenton Central High School, standing in a rain soaked hallway.

Photo by Andrew Wilkinson, [www.wilkinsonmedia.net](http://www.wilkinsonmedia.net)



The abandoned site of the Hazel Marshall school in Paterson, needed to relieve severe overcrowding.

given 2 years to improve or face closure) are in the 31 SDA districts – the very districts being refused funding to repair or replace their dangerous facilities. It is the height of hypocrisy to so callously neglect the basic need of students for functional school facilities, then threaten to close down their schools if they do not improve their performance.

The time for excuses is long gone. It is time to take action so that no New Jersey student is abandoned to a dangerous, unhealthy school building. ■



A hallway used by students in Trenton Central High School.





The undeveloped site of the urgently needed Gloucester City Elementary School. Students are currently attending school in a previously condemned building.



Food preparation room, Elementary School No. 20, Paterson.



31 long-term use trailers at Phillipsburg High School. The new high school is yet to be built. Construction of the new high school was approved only after a court decision.



Teacher bathroom, Elementary School No. 20, Paterson.



Classroom used by students, Trenton Central High School.



Main entrance, Trenton Central High School



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