

# **THE Center for Education Reform**



1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 204 • Washington, DC 20036

Tel 202-822-9000  
Fax 202-822-5077

February 12, 1997  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Kevin Gallagher  
Phone: 202-822-9000

## **LINCOLN PARK, NJ BOARD VOTES FOR CHILDREN NOT JOBS**

**Lincoln Park, NJ** - The Lincoln Park School District last night voted 7-2 to allow parents the right to choose where they can send their children to high school.

The New Jersey blue-collar suburb joins Lake Travis, TX and Chittenden, VT in making a local decision to expand educational opportunities to their children. Lincoln Park is unique because it does not have a high school and is forced to send high school students to neighboring Boonton High School. Boonton receives \$9,200 per pupil from Lincoln Park. Growing tensions between the Boonton and Lincoln Park school boards, and the inadequate education being received in Boonton, has caused Lincoln Park's school board to vote to allow its 325 high-school age students to attend a high school of their choice - public, private or religious.

Lincoln Park residents were not represented on the Boonton school board, until last year when they were granted one representative. Jeanne Allen, president of the Center for Education Reform said, "This is local control at its finest. Boards, and citizens should be allowed to access any means available to give children a fine education. Lincoln Park is among a growing band of local officials who are taking bold steps on behalf of their children's future."

This proposed voucher system would be phased in grade by grade in the upcoming '97-98 school year. Lincoln Park residents are willing to give Boonton 4 years to improve.

The Center has learned that the ACLU and the NJEA among other groups are mounting a considerable fight against the Lincoln Park school board. The details of the new program have not been finalized. Look for updates in the coming days or for more information contact the Center at 202-822-9000.