



Contact: Gregg Edwards, [edwards@weraisenj.org](mailto:edwards@weraisenj.org), 609-961-6048

## **We Raise New Jersey Expresses Support for Legislative Action on High School Graduation Requirements**

**Trenton, NJ** (February 7, 2019) – Members of the We Raise New Jersey coalition applaud the New Jersey Senate for advancing Senate bill 3381, an important step forward in preserving rigorous high school graduation expectations for the students of New Jersey. The coalition is grateful for the leadership of Senator Ruiz as well as Assemblywoman Lampitt and both Education Committees in moving quickly to eliminate confusion for high school juniors and seniors preparing to graduate.

Passage of S3381/A4957 will preserve the proposed regulations that were the product of the State Board of Education's thoughtful deliberations with a wide range of parents, educators, members of the business and higher education communities, and state officials. With the necessary legislative authorization, the regulations can be implemented without causing any further disruption for students, families, and high schools.

“Our coalition advocates for an education system that gives all of our students a fair chance to succeed in college, career, and life,” remarked Gregg Edwards, Executive Director of We Raise NJ. “It is critical that we remain committed to our excellent state academic standards and give our students the opportunity to show mastery of those standards so that their high school diploma is meaningful.”

Donna Custard, President of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation, added, “We do a disservice to our students and our workforce when we lower the bar for what we expect our students to know and do upon high school graduation. Today our legislators acted in the best interest of our children and our future.”

####

**About We Raise New Jersey:** WRNJ advocates for the high-quality education every student deserves to be prepared for success in college, career, and community by harnessing the collective strength of New Jersey's influential education, business, and civic organizations. Coalition members include: New Jersey PTA, JerseyCAN, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, New Jersey Council of County Colleges, New Jersey Business & Industry Association, and the New Jersey Charter Schools Association. For more information, visit <http://www.weraisenj.org/>, and follow <https://www.facebook.com/WeRaiseNJ/> and [@WeRaiseNJ](https://www.instagram.com/WeRaiseNJ/).