



Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

433 Mendenhall Laboratory
125 South Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210

Phone (614) 688-5429
Fax (614) 688-5592

February 2, 2010

**Montclair NJ Board of Education Approves
Student Assignment Plan Designed by Kirwan**

After a year and a half of working closely with the Montclair, New Jersey school district, on February 1, 2010 the Montclair Board of Education approved a student assignment plan designed by the Kirwan Institute. The plan utilizes five factors to assign students to schools: the racial diversity of the neighborhood, the percentage of free and reduced lunch students, household poverty rates, median household income, and parental education levels. These five factors, each calculated at the neighborhood level, were equally weighted to create three geographic zones. Kindergarten assignment at each of the district's elementary schools will give preference to students from under-represented zones in an attempt to promote zone balance. This plan will sustain and promote racial and socio-economic integration throughout the district, while complying with the requirements of law.