

Compromise likely outcome on cuts to education

Posted: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 12:00 am | Updated: 8:08 am, Wed Apr 13, 2011.

By Carl Golden |

Abbott v. Burke has become New Jersey's political version of "War and Peace" - a tale spanning decades, involving hundreds of characters, palace intrigue and a convoluted plot.

The next chapter will be written next week when the Christie administration presents its argument to the state Supreme Court that at last year's reductions in state aid to public education did not violate the Constitution.

The administration will attempt to convince the court to modify the findings by Superior Court Judge

Both the governor and Verniero, whose lives and careers have been involved in the law, have a deep respect for the institution and understand more than most the sanctity of legal precedent and why it would not be overlooked by the court.

It has used the constitutional mandate for the state to establish a "thorough and efficient system of public education" as the basis for its past decisions, interpreting the phrase to require that a "thorough and efficient" education must be provided to the state's children.

That interpretation is another contentious point between the court and its critics.

While it remains to be seen what approach Verniero will take, there has been speculation that compromise is a likely outcome, t