



**THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

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Commissioner of Education  
President of the University of the State of New York  
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September 26, 2016

Dr. Deborah L. Wortham  
Superintendent of Schools  
East Ramapo Central School District  
105 South Madison Avenue  
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Dear Dr. Wortham:

As you know, on June 30, 2016, the Governor signed into law Chapter 89 of the Laws of 2016 ("Chapter 89"), which, among other things, continues the appointment of up to three monitors for the East Ramapo Central School District ("District") for the 2016-2017 school year and contains a specific focus on fiscal and budgetary planning and oversight. Chapter 89 also requires that District consult with the monitor(s) in developing a long-term strategic academic and fiscal improvement plan ("improvement plan"), which shall be submitted for my approval. The improvement plan must include a comprehensive expenditure plan that must be developed in consultation with the monitor(s) and must describe how funds made available pursuant to Chapter 89 will be spent. Pursuant to Chapter 89, the District's Board of Education ("Board") must conduct a public hearing on the expenditure plan and consider community input before adopting the plan. The expenditure plan must be made publicly available and must be submitted to the Commissioner for approval, together with comments made by the community.

Pursuant to Chapter 89, on August 13, 2016, I informed the Board of my appointment of Charles Szuberla as monitor to the district, to be supported by Dr. John Sipple. Since that time, Mr. Szuberla and Dr. Sipple have worked closely with you and your staff on the development of the improvement plan, which includes the comprehensive expenditure plan. The District conducted a public hearing and received community input on the expenditure plan on September 7. After considering the public comments received, the board approved the expenditure plan on September 13, 2016. The District's improvement and expenditure plans were submitted to me for review on September 20, 2016.

In accordance with Chapter 89, I hereby approve the improvement and expenditure plans, which include plans to implement full-day kindergarten classrooms and the hiring of both monolingual and bilingual kindergarten teachers; the restoration of art, music, dance and theater classes in grades K-6; clear performance objectives for students; and increased professional development. The plans ensure that the \$3 million in supplemental funding is spent on dedicated programs for public school students in the District, that students have access to appropriate programs and services, and that the district is on a

path to fiscal and programmatic stability. Finally, the plans include goals, appropriate benchmarks, measurable objectives and strategies to address areas of needed improvement in the District including financial stability, academic opportunities and outcomes, the education of students with disabilities and English language learners.

Thank you for your efforts to collaborate with Mr. Szuberla and Dr. Sipple on the development of the improvement and expenditure plans. I look forward to our continued work together to ensure that the requirements of Chapter 89 are met and that the students of East Ramapo have access to appropriate, quality programs and services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "MaryEllen Elia". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

MaryEllen Elia  
Commissioner