

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

To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public Schools
Charter School Administrators

Date: October 28, 2014

From: Cosimo Tangorra

Subject: Statement Regarding Undocumented Children

In response to the unprecedented numbers of unaccompanied and other undocumented immigrant children from Central and South America this year and reports that unaccompanied minors have been excluded from enrolling in certain school districts, the New York State Education Department and the Office of the Attorney General will conduct a compliance review of school districts' enrollment policies to ensure all students receive the free appropriate public education to which they are entitled.

In order to assess the impact of the additional students on districts' operations and budgets, the Department is taking the following actions:

- School districts will be afforded the opportunity to revise their spring 2014 submissions to the annual Title III Immigrant Count of Immigrant Children and Youth survey to report counts of children initially present in schools in the United States between February 1, 2011 and October 31, 2014. School districts that did not respond to the survey in spring 2014 may submit for the first time for the period February 1, 2011 to October 31, 2014. Identification of immigrant students must comply with the federal definition which, along with the survey form, is available at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/biling/bilinged/immigrantcount.html>. Superintendent certification of accuracy is required.

The timeframe for revised or new submissions to the Count of Immigrant Children and Youth survey will be November 1, 2014 – November 13, 2014.

- School districts are urged to view their 2014-15 NCLB allocation report at <http://www.oms.nysed.gov/cafe/reports/> to determine if Title III Immigrant funding is available. School districts have historically not made full use of the funds to which they have been entitled based on reported immigrant children and youth counts. Where funding is available, application may be made via the 2014-15 Consolidated Application Update at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/fundingopp.html>.

The Board of Regents recognizes the fiscal impact an unanticipated influx of new students has on districts. We are asking New York's Congressional delegation to support urgent action on proposals for federal funding for districts receiving unaccompanied minors. Our State Aid proposal, to be announced later this fall, will call for immediate action on additional state aid for districts managing an influx of new students this school year

Thank you for your cooperation.