



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

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Commissioner of Education  
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December 10, 2025

Ms. Donna Marable, President  
Board of Education  
Mount Vernon City School District  
165 North Columbus Avenue  
Mount Vernon, New York 19553

Dear President Marable:

I am writing to inform you that, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2025, the academic improvement and financial plans that were adopted by the board of education of the Mount Vernon City School District (the district) on November 25, 2025, and submitted to me by State monitor Kimberly Young Wilkins on December 1, 2025, must now be implemented by the district.

The next steps in the process are as follows:

- District Budget:
  - The board of education shall submit the district's proposed budget for the 2026–2027 school year to the monitor no later than March 1, 2026. The monitor shall review the proposed budget to ensure that it is balanced within the context of revenue and expenditure estimates and mandated programs.
  - The monitor also shall review the proposed budget to ensure that it, to the greatest extent possible, is consistent with the district's academic improvement and financial plans.
  - The monitor shall present her findings to the board of education and the Commissioner no later than 45 days prior to the date scheduled for the board of education's vote on the adoption of the final budget. The New York State Education Department ("the Department") will provide guidelines regarding the process by which proposed budgets shall be reviewed.
  - The Commissioner may require the board of education to make amendments to the proposed budget consistent with any recommendations made by the monitor if the Commissioner determines such amendments are necessary to comply with the academic improvement and financial plans and the law.
  - The district is required to make public the initial proposed budget, the monitor's findings, and the final proposed budget on the district's website at least seven calendar days prior to the date of the district's budget hearing.

- In the event it is necessary for the board of education to conduct subsequent votes on the budget, the board of education, in conjunction with the monitor, shall develop and submit the district's revised budget for the 2026–2027 school year to the Commissioner no later than seven calendar days prior to the budget hearing.
  - Should the Commissioner or her designee request additional information, the board of education shall promptly provide such information within three business days of such request.
- Required Reports:
    - The district shall provide quarterly reports to the monitor and annual reports concerning the academic, fiscal, and operational status of the district as follows:
      - February 1, 2026, for the period from October 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025;
      - May 1, 2026, for the period from January 1, 2026, to March 31, 2026;
      - August 1, 2026, for the period from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026 which will incorporate the quarterly report for that period.
    - The monitor shall provide semiannual reports that shall include all the contracts that the district entered into throughout the year. These reports are due to the Commissioner as follows:
      - February 15, 2026, for the period from July 1 – December 31 and
      - August 15, 2026, for the period from January 1 – June 30.
    - It is expected that the superintendent and/or the monitor shall present progress reports quarterly at public sessions of the board of education.
  - Annual Plan Updates
    - The monitor shall work with the district to annually update the academic improvement and fiscal plans. Additional information and guidelines about this process will be provided by the Department later this school year.

Please note that with the approval of these plans, Monitor Young Wilkins has the authority to notify the board of education and the Commissioner in writing when the district is deemed by the monitor to be violating an element of the plans. Within twenty days of such notice, the Commissioner will determine whether the district is in violation of any of the elements of the plan as reported by the monitor and if warranted, will order the district to comply immediately with the plan and remedy any such violation. The district must suspend all actions related to the reported violation of the plan pending a determination by the Commissioner.

If you have any questions regarding the district's responsibilities in implementing the district's plans, please contact the State Monitor Support Team at [State.Monitors@nysed.gov](mailto:State.Monitors@nysed.gov).

I wish to reemphasize that the plans that the board of education has adopted are not aspirational but rather roadmaps to improved fiscal and academic outcomes that the district has committed to implement with full fidelity.

We congratulate you on the progress made to date and look forward to supporting your efforts to ensure that every Mount Vernon City School District student receives the education that they need and deserve.

Sincerely,



Betty A. Rosa  
Commissioner

Cc: Dr. Demario Strickland, Superintendent  
Dr. Kimberly Young Wilkins, Monitor  
Dr. Lester W. Young, Jr., Chancellor  
Dr. Jeffrey Matteson, Senior Deputy Commissioner, NYSED  
Theresa Billington, Assistant Commissioner, NYSED