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Update on East Ramapo Central School District

July 20, 2015



Fiscal Monitor Report

- **On June 10, 2014, Commissioner King appointed Henry M. Greenberg as a Fiscal Monitor for the East Ramapo Central School District.**
- **Broad charge was given to:**
 - **Review District's fiscal practices, conduct and history.**
 - **Recommend ways State can ensure District:**
 - **Provides an appropriate education program; and**
 - **Properly manages and accounts for State and Federal funds received.**
- **November 17, 2014 report made six recommendations.**

Recommendations

Recommendation #1: Reform District's governance structure to provide necessary checks and balances to the Board and Superintendent that protect public school students.

- **Legislative action necessary to ensure fair and transparent decision-making; prevent further budgetary crises; path to long-term fiscal stability.**
- **East Ramapo Oversight Bill passed by Assembly.**
- **Continue advocacy for next legislative session.**

Recommendations

Recommendation #2: Increase State funding to District above current levels.

- District budget reflects 9% increase in State Aid.
- \$6.1 million allocated from Smart Schools Bond Act.
- \$3.5 million lottery “spin-up” funds not accessed by District.

Recommendations

Recommendation #3: Board should undergo training to ensure greater transparency.

- Board and Superintendent participated in Open Meetings Law training in January 2015.

Recommendation #4: Board should undergo diversity training.

- Board and Superintendent participated in diversity training in March 2015.

Recommendations

Recommendation #5: District should undergo SED monitoring review to ensure appropriate services for ELLs and Immigrant Students.

- **Joint SED/Attorney General review.**
- **SED site visits conducted and report of violations issued.**
- **District submitted Corrective Action Plan and is working with SED to revise and improve Plan.**
- **District part of SED ELL Leadership Institute with City College and Stanford to provide better services to ELLs.**

Recommendations

Recommendation #6: Community Leaders should work to bridge the divide between the public and private school communities.

- **Lack of cultural competency by the District indicating a failure to understand the background and needs of the ELL community.**

Other Activities

Office of Special Education

- SED to continue monitoring the District's special education placement practices.
- District required to complete a self-review of policies, procedures and practices relating to disciplinary actions, including suspensions and expulsions.
- Progress made in identified noncompliance areas.
- Monitoring review in 2015-16 school year regarding issues raised by teachers.

Other Activities

Office of Accountability

- **Four schools preliminarily identified as Local Assistance Plan (LAP) schools based on 2013-14 data. 2014-15 school year data will be used to determine whether the district will have any new Priority or Focus Schools.**
- **Preliminary DTSDE report rates the District “Stage 1” (or “Ineffective”) on all statements of practice.**

Other Activities

Office of Educational Management Services

- **Transportation costs continue to grow; other areas have limited growth.**
- **Technical assistance provided to District on transportation contract re-bid process.**
- **District reviewing bus runs for students attending nonpublic schools.**
- **District exploring elimination of transportation for students attending nonpublic schools outside the 15-mile limit.**