



Office of P-12 Education

Charles A. Szuberla, Jr., Assistant Commissioner

Office of School Operations

Room 874 EBA

(518) 474-2238

December 14, 2012

Dr. Joel Klein
Superintendent
East Ramapo Central School District
105 South Madison Avenue
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Dear Dr. Klein:

I write in follow-up to our meeting on November 19 with you, Dr. Mary Jean Marsico, District Superintendent of Rockland BOCES and William Toussaint, Rockland BOCES business official, regarding the financial condition of the East Ramapo Central School District (the "District"). It is apparent from our discussions that you and the Board of Education need to take dramatic actions to reduce the budget deficit while at the same time protecting your academic programs. The board's approval of previous staffing reductions and other cost saving measures was a positive step. There is, however, more work to be done to balance the 2012-13 budget, address the accumulated deficit and pay for services provided by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

Because the district tax rate has been set and taxes levied, additional spending reductions are necessary to balance the 2012-13 budget. I am therefore requesting that you and the Board of Education take the following actions by January 2, 2013:

- Submit the District's plan and timeline for addressing the current budget deficit and balancing the budget for the current school year, including payment for services provided by the Rockland Board of Cooperative Educational Services.
- Provide documentation showing the size of the 2012-13 operating deficit and any accumulated deficit for prior years.

I am also requesting that you and the Board of Education take the following actions by January 2:

- Make further budget reductions to comply with Education Law §1718 and ensure that the 2012-13 school budget is in structural balance. If there are staff members who will lose their positions, they should be notified in accordance with law as soon as possible.
- Establish policies and procedures to oversee the balanced budget, make appropriate transfers and prevent negative appropriations.

- Submit a management plan to the Department that demonstrates controls are in place to monitor and control spending.
- Forward to the Department, on a monthly basis, the treasurer's report required by Section 170.2(o) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.
- Forward to the Department, on a monthly basis, the budget status report required by Section 170.2(p) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

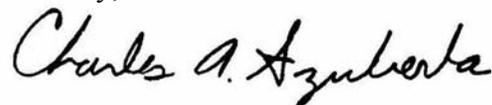
You will be notified by the Office of Special Education under separate cover of the specific actions you must take to provide appropriate programs for students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment. The notification will also address the reasons why state reimbursement has been denied for costs related to certain placements of students with disabilities in approved private schools.

The Department is prepared to assist you in the following areas:

- Providing technical assistance to you and your school business official to assist you in addressing the deficit.
- Reducing the costs for services to special education students – over the long-term – by creating high-quality, in-district programs for students who have been placed in approved private schools and other settings outside of the school district.

Please submit the District's plan and timeline for addressing the current budget deficit and balancing the budget for the current school year by January 2. I will contact you to discuss your plans to balance the budget and describe the assistance the Department can provide in more detail.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Szuberla, Jr.

c: J. King
K. Slentz