



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

Commissioner of Education  
President of the University of the State of New York  
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October 9, 2012

Dr. Pamela C. Brown, Superintendent  
Buffalo Public Schools  
712 City Hall  
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Superintendent Brown:

I am pleased to inform you that I have reviewed and approved the attached Distinguished Educator Action Plan developed by Dr. Judy Elliott in collaboration with you and your staff. This action plan focuses on recommendations for building district capacity to support Buffalo's Priority Schools and the role that Dr. Elliott can play in assisting in this effort.

There are several recommendations within the plan that have the potential to increase Buffalo's capacity to carry out its conditionally approved School Improvement Grant application for 2012-2013. I strongly recommend that you and your staff review the action plan, and, where appropriate, revise the district level portion of the SIG application to align with the recommendations in Dr. Elliott's plan. I have asked Dr. Elliott to provide assistance in this alignment effort and have directed my staff to accept and review any revisions submitted prior to issuing a grant award. I have also asked Dr. Elliott to submit regular updates to me on the progress of plan implementation.

I understand that the recommendations contained in this report are consistent with your vision for transforming the Buffalo Central Office into an organization that better communicates with and supports its schools, and I expect that you will wish to incorporate each of the recommendations provided into your District Comprehensive Improvement Plans (DCIP) and School Comprehensive Education Plans (SCEPS) for Priority Schools, which must be submitted by October 31.

In accordance with State Education Law 211-c (5), the Distinguished Educator (DE) is required to review the DCIP and the SCEPs for Priority Schools. As a result of the review, the DE's role is either to endorse each plan without change or make recommendations for modifications to the Board of Education and the Commissioner.

Upon receipt of any recommendations for modification to the DCIP or SCEPs, the Board of Education has the option either to modify the plans consistent with the recommendations or to provide a written explanation to the Commissioner of its reasons for not adopting such recommendations.

Based upon the written explanation provided by the district, the Commissioner will either accept the district's proposal or direct the district to modify the plans as recommended by the Distinguished Educator.

If you have any questions regarding the process for submitting revisions to your 2012-2013 School Improvement application or development of your DCIP or SCEPS, please contact either Associate Commissioner of Accountability, Ira Schwartz, at [ischwart@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:ischwart@mail.nysed.gov), or Assistant Commissioner of Innovation, Sally Bachofer, at [sbachof@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:sbachof@mail.nysed.gov).

I look forward to supporting your work to ensure dramatic increases in student achievement.

Sincerely,



John B. King, Jr.  
Commissioner

Enclosure

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