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March 17, 2017

**VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY**

Maria Desautelle, Complaint Investigator  
New Jersey Department of Education  
Office of Special Education Programs  
100 River View Plaza  
Trenton, NJ 08625

**RE: Education Law Center v. State-Operated School District of the City of Paterson  
Docket No. C- 2017-5648**

Dear Ms. Desautelle:

This office represents the State Operated School District of the City of Paterson (hereinafter referred to as "Respondent") in connection with the above-referenced matter. Enclosed for filing please find Respondent's Answer to the Complaint filed on March 6, 2017.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



FRANCES E. BARTO

FEB:gmm  
Enclosure

cc: Elizabeth Athos, Esq. (*via overnight delivery*) ✓  
Cheryl Coy (*via electronic and regular mail*)

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State-Operated School District for the  
City of Paterson

EDUCATION LAW CENTER, Complainant,  v.  STATE-OPERATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF PATERSON,  Respondent.
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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Docket No.: C-2017-5648

**ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE  
DEFENSES TO COMPLAINT**

Respondent, Paterson Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as “Respondent” or the “District”), by way of Answer herein says:

1. Paragraph 1 of the Complaint does not allege any allegations against Respondent and accordingly, no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Respondent denies each and every allegation set forth in Paragraph 1 of the Complaint.
2. Respondent denies each and every allegation set forth in Paragraph 2 of the Complaint and leaves Complainant to its proofs.
3. Respondent denies each and every allegation set forth in Paragraph 3 of the Complaint and leaves Complainant to its proofs.
4. Respondent denies each and every allegation set forth in Paragraph 4 of the Complaint and leaves Complainant to its proofs.
5. Respondent denies each and every allegation set forth in Paragraph 5 of the

Complaint and leaves Complainant to its proofs.

6. Paragraph 6 of the Complaint does not allege any allegations against Respondent and accordingly, no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Respondent denies each and every allegation set forth in Paragraph 6 of the Complaint.
7. Paragraph 7 of the Complaint does not allege any allegations against Respondent and accordingly, no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Respondent denies each and every allegation set forth in Paragraph 7 of the Complaint.

**WHEREFORE**, Respondent denies the Complainant is entitled to any relief, and demands that the Complaint be dismissed in its entirety, with prejudice, and Respondent be awarded attorneys' fees, costs of suit and any other relief.

**SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

1. The Complaint should be dismissed as Complainant has no standing.
2. The Complaint should be dismissed as Complainant has failed to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.
3. To the extent required by law, Respondent has made available to students of the District a free, appropriate public education.
4. The Complaint should be dismissed as any and all acts of the Respondent constituted appropriate exercise of statutory authority.
5. The Complaint should be dismissed as Complainant is not entitled to any relief.

**WHEREFORE**, Respondent, State Operated School District of the City of Paterson, demands judgment dismissing the Complaint in its entirety, as well as attorney's fees, interest,

costs of suit, and such further relief as deemed appropriate by the Court.

McMANIMON, SCOTLAND & BAUMANN, LLC  
Attorneys for Respondent,  
State-Operated School District of the City of  
Paterson

By:   
FRANCES E. BARTO

Dated: March 17, 2017