

ELC EDUCATION LAW CENTER

September 19, 2013

John Jay Hoffman, Acting Attorney General
State of New Jersey
P.O. Box 080
Trenton, NJ 08625-0800

Re: Annual Report on State Intervention

Dear General Hoffman:

I write to bring to your attention the requirement for an annual report to the Joint Committee on the Public Schools on those school districts under State intervention.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-31.3b directs the Commissioner of Education to, "[o]n an annual basis," submit a report to the Legislature's Joint Committee on the Public Schools "on the progress made in implementation of the [district's] improvement plan" and "the prospects for the State's withdrawal from intervention.

Three school districts were placed under State intervention during the 1990's: Newark, Paterson and Jersey City. While the State has withdrawn from a few areas in Jersey City, and one area in Newark, these districts remain under State operation. All of these districts are implementing State-approved improvement plans and undergoing six month progress reviews of those plans.

It has come to our attention that the annual reports for these districts pursuant to the above statute have not been filed at least for the last several years. These reports are critical to inform the respective communities and the public of the State's efforts to improve district performance and restore control over public education to the local board of education.

Accordingly, I ask your Office investigate this matter and, if you confirm the required reports have not been filed, ensure compliance as promptly as possible.

Please advise if you have questions or if we can be of assistance in this matter. I look forward to your reply to this letter.

Sincerely,



David G. Sciarra
Executive Director

Cc: Michael C. Walters, DAG
Commissioner Christopher Cerf
Joint Committee on the Public Schools
Melanie Schultz, Committee Staff