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April 7, 2014

Mark Neary, Clerk
Supreme Court of New Jersey
Hughes Justice Complex
25 Market Street
Trenton, NJ 08625-0970

Re: Abbott v. Burke
Motion In Aid of Litigants' Rights dated
March 27, 2014

Dear Mr. Neary:

Please accept this letter as notice of the State's intention to provide informational state aid notices to all school districts consistent with the School Funding Reform Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-34 et seq. (SFRA).

On April 3, 2014, David Hespe,¹ Acting Commissioner, Department of Education, informed the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee that additional funding information will be provided to all school districts and to the Legislature in the next several weeks. The information will assist the districts in better understanding their proposed Fiscal Year 2015 State aid against the backdrop of the SFRA. Specifically, the Department will provide expanded State aid notices that include the same content and information as the State aid notices for FY2014 and FY2013. This includes the district's adequacy budget and the maximum amount of aid payable to the district under the SFRA. N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5. Commissioner Hespe expects the notices to be issued on or about April 28, 2014.

¹ Commissioner Hespe began his current term of service at the Department of Education on March 20, 2014.



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This information is responsive to the Education Law Center's (ELC) March 27, 2014, motion in the above-captioned matter, as well as independent inquiries of school districts.

Additionally, as indicated by the Commissioner at the budget hearing, the Department of Education will provide the Legislature with data and fiscal analysis under the SFRA. This information may inform the Assembly Budget Committee Hearing of May 5, 2014, as well as the general appropriations discourse leading up to the Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations Act.

In light of the foregoing, and in the interest of conserving the time and resources of the Court and the parties, the State anticipates no formal filings in opposition to the substantive relief sought by movant ELC in its March 27, 2014, submission to this Court. The Department will act consistent with the Commissioner's testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. HOFFMAN
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

By:



Michelle Lynn Miller
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c: David Sciarra, Esq.