

ELC EDUCATION LAW CENTER

December 15, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC AND REGULAR MAIL
Frances E. Barto, Esq.
Barto & Barto, LLC
15 Warren Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Re: Speech Therapy Services in Paterson Public Schools

Dear Ms. Barto:

I am writing to request information about the provision of speech therapy services to students in the Paterson Public Schools (PPS) district during the current 2017-2018 school year.

As you know, the New Jersey Department of Education found systemic violations in PPS's provision of related services, including speech therapy, during the 2016-2017 school year. Complaint Investigation #C2017-5648 concluded that the district failed to provide related services to numerous students in 2016-17, and Complaint Investigation #C2017-5758 similarly concluded that the district failed to implement the IEPs of preschool students last year.

This school year, ELC has received information indicating that PPS is still failing to provide speech therapy services to students in several of the district's schools and preschool centers. We ask that you please specify: a) whether any PPS schools or preschool centers are currently unable to fulfill speech therapy requirements in students' IEPs; b) the names and dates of any PPS school or preschool center that has been without speech therapy services at any point during the 2017-18 school year; and c) all steps being taken by PPS, including hiring, contracts, and program implementation, to ensure the adequate provision of speech therapy services to district students.

Please feel free to contact me at (973) 624-1815, ext. 15, if you would like to discuss by phone. I hope to receive a prompt response from the district on this important issue.

Very truly yours,



Jessica Levin, Esq.

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