



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

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Commissioner of Education  
President of the University of the State of New York  
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August 2, 2019

Mr. Van Henri White, President  
Board of Education  
Rochester City School District  
131 West Broad Street  
Rochester, NY 14614

**RE: Response to Revised Distinguished Educator Action Plan**

Dear Mr. White:

In August 2018, in accordance with Education Law §§211-b and 211-c and Commissioner's Regulations §§100.16 and 100.17, Dr. Jaime Aquino was appointed as Distinguished Educator (DE) of the Rochester City School District (RCSD or the District) to provide additional support to improve the District's systems, structures, and operations, as well as address significant gaps in student services and academic performance.

In November 2018, Dr. Aquino submitted to the Department his Distinguished Educator's report with recommendations to which you were asked to provide a District response. In February 2019, the District submitted to the Department an action plan to respond to the recommendations contained in Dr. Aquino's report. On April 25, 2019, the Department provided detailed feedback to RCSD and requested additional revisions to the action plan. In June 2019, RCSD submitted a revised action plan to the Department.

Department staff have reviewed the revised action plan and determined that the recent submission provides a more cohesive vision for improvement than the version submitted in March. In most instances, the revisions have addressed the DE's findings and recommendations and the Department's April 2019 feedback. Please note that there are some instances in which additional revisions are required.

The Department has provided its feedback in red within the District's revised action plan attached to this letter. Any section that the Department has identified as needing further revision has red text beginning with "NYSED Request for Additional Revisions," followed by the specific revisions requested. In a few instances, the Department is not requesting revisions but does want to provide additional feedback and observations about the District's revisions. Any section that does not contain red text has been accepted by the Department as submitted. The RCSD should review the feedback in red and make the identified revisions and submit its plan to me for review no later than 5:00 PM on August

30, 2019. Upon receipt, the Department will review the revised plan and inform the District if further information is needed.

Thank you for your work to incorporate the original feedback provided by the Department. These efforts ensure that RCSD has a cohesive vision for improvement through its action plan.

We look forward to supporting the District's efforts to implement the action plan and ultimately improve educational outcomes for students in the Rochester City School District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "MaryEllen Elia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

MaryEllen Elia  
Commissioner

Attachment

c: Terry Dade  
Kim Wilkins