



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Lt. Governor

KIMBERLEY HARRINGTON
Commissioner

December 19, 2017

Mr. Christopher D. Cerf
Superintendent
Newark School District
2 Cedar Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Superintendent Cerf:

Congratulations on the continued progress Newark Public Schools (NPS) has made to prepare for local control. The transition to local control is governed by *N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-49* and *N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2* through 7.4. Pursuant to these provisions, the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) has collaborated with the district to develop a plan that will fully transition the district to local oversight by the School Board. To this end, the Department has developed a comprehensive transition plan, which identifies fundamental considerations of the overall transition, provides detailed transition guidance on the two recently returned domains, Governance and Instruction & Program, and includes additional guidance for the three Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) areas already under local control. The Department has developed this plan with significant input from Newark community leaders, by considering documents shared by the Newark Education Success Board, feedback from Newark Community meetings in November, and largely accepting several components drafted by a committee of NPS staff, NPS Board members, and representatives from the Mayor's office as submitted.

The transition will be formally effective on February 1, 2018, when the local advisory board will become the Board of Education, with all the authority over and accountability for the district this title implies. The comprehensive transition plan also includes a detailed timeline and set of milestones to guide the district's transition over a period of two years.

The state moved forward in a timely manner to develop this transition plan, due to the positive trends reflected in the results of Newark's most recent QSAC reviews. These results show that there is substantial evidence that the district has the adequate programs, policies, and personnel in place to ensure that demonstrated progress is sustained. The goal of any transition plan is to ensure that with the return of new responsibilities, the district is able to further build on the progress it has made in recent years. With the delivery of the attached transition plan, and the presentation of this plan at the district's local public board meeting this evening, December 19, 2017, it is my belief that the district and NPS Board are prepared to assume this duty.

Again, I would like to extend my congratulations to the district staff, board members and the Newark community for this milestone. As local control is returned in the coming weeks, I encourage you to make each and every decision with a focus on the best interests of Newark's children and commit to you that the NJDOE will be here to support your efforts.

Sincerely,



Kimberley Harrington
Commissioner

KH/CS

c: Robert Bumpus
Christopher T. Huber
Christopher Snyder
Joseph Zarra