

7TH DISTRICT  
VINCENT HUGHES

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Senate of Pennsylvania

September 8, 2014

STANDING COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS, DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS  
POLICY  
RULES & EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

APPOINTMENTS

CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES  
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT ADVISORY COMMISSION  
PA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AGENCY BOARD  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
PA HIGHER EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
PA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS  
PA MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS BOARD

Carolyn Dumaresq, Ed.D.  
Acting Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Education  
333 Market Street  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Secretary Dumaresq,

The School District of Philadelphia will begin its academic year next week with roughly the same level of funding as the previous year. This assumes the General Assembly enacts a local cigarette tax authorization for the district immediately upon their return on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

We believe that level of funding is insufficient, as indicated by more than 800 complaints of curriculum deficiency that were submitted to the Department of Education during 2013-14. We are writing to inquire what follow-up was made by your department to investigate those complaints.

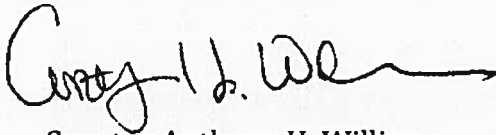
This question has the utmost urgency. Currently, the District does not have sufficient funds to meet last year's severely inadequate level of service. With the best case scenario, maintenance of last year's level of service, we need to ensure that any allegation of deficiency in the legally mandated level of instruction must be investigated and corrected so that we as the adults do not fail our children.

The Department must act quickly to determine if each complaint submitted is warranted and if it is, take immediate action so that all children in the commonwealth receive the thorough and efficient education as required by law.

Sincerely,

Senator Vincent J. Hughes  
7<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

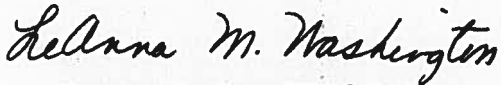
Senator Shirley M. Kitchen  
3<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District



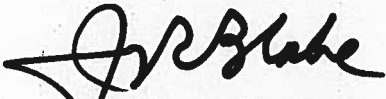
Senator Anthony H. Williams  
8<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Lawrence Farnese, Jr.  
1<sup>st</sup> Senatorial District



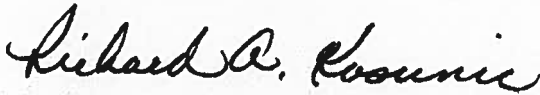
Senator LeAnna Washington  
4<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



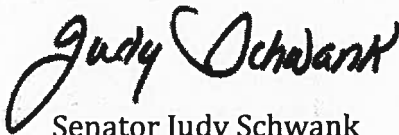
Senator John P. Blake  
22<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District



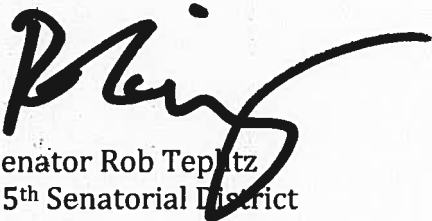
Senator Jim Ferlo  
38<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Richard A. Kasunic  
32<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District



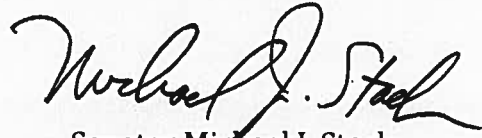
Senator Judy Schwank  
11<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



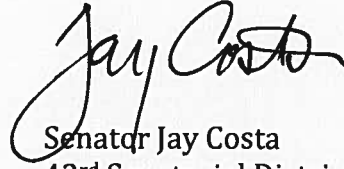
Senator Rob Tepitz  
15<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



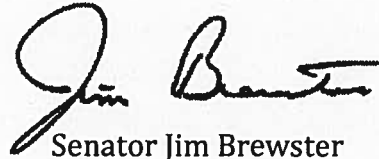
Senator Christine M. Tartaglione  
2<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District



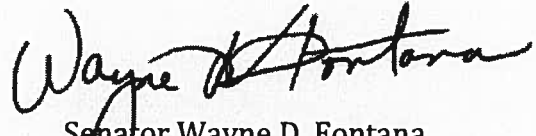
Senator Michael J. Stack  
5<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Jay Costa  
43<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Jim Brewster  
45<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



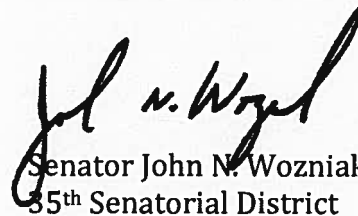
Senator Wayne D. Fontana  
42<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District



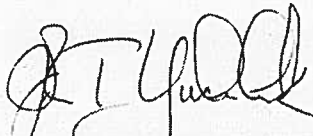
Senator Daylin Leach  
17<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



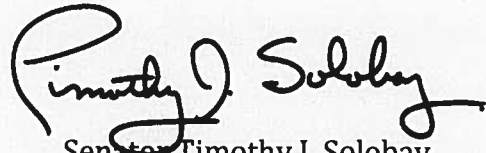
Senator Matt Smith  
37<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



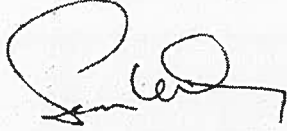
Senator John N. Wozniak  
35<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



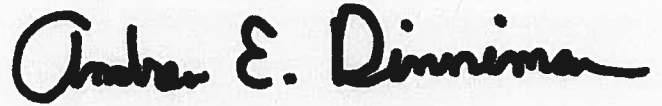
Senator John T. Yudichak  
14<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Timothy J. Solobay  
46<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Sean Wiley  
49<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Andrew E. Dinniman  
19<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Lisa M. Boscola  
18<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District