



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

December 8, 2015

VIA U.S. MAIL AND E-MAIL

Karyn T. Lynch
Chief of Student Support Services
School District of Philadelphia
440 N. Broad Street, Suite 201
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Dear Ms. Lynch:

Between September and October 2013, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) received complaints of curriculum deficiencies alleged to be existent in multiple School District of Philadelphia (District) schools. Those complaints were filed pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 4.81 and contain the following allegations:

1. The Bodine High School of International Affairs offers only Spanish to its students and for only a two-year sequence.
2. The Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts does not offer physical education, offers limited writing classes, and has an ineffective gifted education program.
3. The Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush offers limited art classes.
4. The C.W. Henry School has an ineffective gifted education program.

The following timeline outlines PDE's attempt to investigate the allegations in accordance with 22 Pa. Code § 4.81(b).

1. 11/2013 PDE forwarded the complaints to the District.
2. 7/2/2015 PDE forwarded the complaints to the District and requested a written response.
3. 8/2015 PDE attempted to contact the District by telephone and email.
4. 8/7/2015 PDE again forwarded the complaints to the District and requested a written response.
5. 9/16/2015 The District provided a written response to the allegations against the C.W. Henry School, but did not respond to the allegations against the three other schools.
6. 10/2015 PDE again attempted to contact the District by telephone and email.
7. 10/8/2015 PDE requested a written response to the allegations against the three other schools and additional information about the allegations against the C.W. Henry School.

PDE has notified the District that its failure to respond to PDE's investigation would result in an adverse finding against the District, which would require the District to develop and submit to PDE a corrective action plan to address its curriculum deficiencies. The District has had more than sufficient time to comply with PDE's request or request additional time to do so. As of the date of this letter and despite the number of opportunities provided to the District, the District has not provided a response to the allegations against three of the schools. Furthermore, the District has not provided additional information about the allegations against the C.W. Henry School.

Accordingly, all of the curriculum deficiencies are determined to exist. Pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 4.81(c), the District must submit a corrective action plan for approval. The corrective action plan must address each of the allegations of curriculum deficiencies noted above and must include a written procedure clearly describing how the District will address the curriculum deficiencies, the timelines to be followed, and the action to be taken if District staff responsible for implementing the corrective action plan fail to do so.

A copy of the District's corrective action plan must be signed by the District employee responsible for overseeing the implementation of the plan and returned to me for approval no later than 45 days from the receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,



Pedro A. Rivera
Secretary of Education

cc: William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia
Michael A. Davis, General Counsel of the School District of Philadelphia
David Volkman, Executive Deputy Secretary
Matthew Stem, Deputy Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
Gregory Schwab, Chief Counsel
Stephen Fisher, Director, School Services Office