



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

Commissioner of Education
President of the University of the State of New York
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April 17, 2017

Yehuda Weissmandl
President, Board of Education
East Ramapo Central School District
105 South Madison Avenue
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Dear Mr. Weissmandl:

Pursuant to Chapter 89 of the Laws of 2016, the Commissioner of Education is required to review the East Ramapo Central School District's ("District") proposed budget for the 2017-2018 school year and to present his or her findings to the Board of Education no later than 30 days prior to the date of the annual school district budget vote.

Specifically, the law requires that the Commissioner review the budget to ensure that it, to the greatest extent possible, expands educational programming for students, including but not limited to extracurricular activities, course offerings, non-mandated support services, non-mandated art and music classes, programs and services for English language learners and students with disabilities, and maintaining class size. The Commissioner's review of the budget must also ensure that it is balanced within the context of revenue and expenditure estimates and mandated programs.

In accordance with these legal requirements, I have reviewed the District's proposed 2017-2018 budget and find that it is balanced and does expand educational programming for students. For example, the proposed budget would add nine new bilingual teachers, three new English as a new language teachers, and would provide greater opportunities for staff development as well as after-school arts programs.

In addition, I understand that the District may be considering presenting to the voters a possible override of the tax cap. At this time, the proposed budget presented to me does not include any such override. If the District determines to pursue an override, please submit documentation explaining the District's proposal in this regard and the impact on the District's proposed 2017-2018 budget for my review as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

MaryEllen Elia
Commissioner

c: Dr. Deborah Wortham
Charles Szuberla
John Sipple