



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

LAMONT O. REPOLLET, ED.D.
Commissioner

September 5, 2018

Ms. Eileen Shafer
Superintendent
Paterson Public Schools
90 Delaware Avenue
Paterson, New Jersey 07503

Dear Superintendent Shafer:

Congratulations on the continued progress Paterson Public Schools (PPS) 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 in collaboration with the District and with local input from Paterson Community meetings in June.

The transition will be formally effective on September 6, 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 Paterson'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, September 5, 2018, it is my belief that the district and Paterson School Board are prepared to assume this duty.

Eileen Shafer
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Again, I would like to extend my congratulations to the district staff, board members and the Paterson 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 Paterson's children and commit to you that the NJDOE will be here to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Repollet', written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D.
Commissioner

c: Robert Bumpus
Kellie LeDet
Christopher T. Huber
Christopher Snyder
Melissa Pearce