NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | **Department of Health**

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Governor	Commissioner	Executive Deputy Commissioner

September 26, 2016

Mr. John Buyce
Audit Director
New York State Office of the State Comptroller
110 State Street, 11th Floor
Albany, New York 12236

Dear Mr. Buyce:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 170 of New York State Executive Law, I hereby transmit to you a copy of the New York State Department of Health's comments related to the Office of the State Comptroller's final audit report 2015-S-85 entitled, "Oversight of Student Immunization in Schools."

Please feel free to contact Amy Nickson, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Governmental and External Affairs at (518) 473-1124 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Howard Zucker M.D.

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner of Health

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Nickson

Department of Health
Comments on the
Office of the State Comptroller's
Final Audit Report 2015-S-85 entitled,
Oversight of Student Immunization in Schools

The following are the Department of Health's (Department) comments in response to the Office of the State Comptroller's (OSC) Final Audit Report 2015-S-85 entitled, "Oversight of Student Immunization in Schools."

Recommendation #1

Use additional risk factors, such as those detailed in this report, to identify higher-risk schools and better target audit and technical assistance efforts.

Response #1

The Department agrees with this recommendation. The Department has revised its school audit selection criteria for the 2016-17 school year to incorporate additional risk factors, including schools known to have a large number of international students, those with low immunization coverage, and those that have high student exemptions, in addition to the criteria in use in prior school years. In addition, the Department will offer technical assistance via phone to schools reporting immunization coverage less than 90% or with large numbers of students with no immunization records in the 2016 School Immunization Survey.