



DEPUTY COMMISSIONER  
Office of Performance Improvement and Management Services  
O: 518.473-4706  
F: 518.474-5392

June 5, 2020

Hon. Thomas P. DiNapoli  
New York State Comptroller  
110 State Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12236

Dear Comptroller DiNapoli:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 170 of the Executive Law, the following are actions that the State Education Department (SED) has taken, or will be taking, to implement the recommendations contained in the Office of the State Comptroller's (OSC) Final Audit Report (2018-S-69) Block Institute School (Block) - Compliance with the Reimbursable Cost Manual.

Recommendation 1: "Review the recommended disallowances identified by our audit and make the appropriate adjustments to Block's CFRs and tuition reimbursement rates, as warranted."

SED is currently in the process of reviewing the Consolidated Fiscal Report (CFR) and OSC audit work papers and will make necessary adjustments, provided that SED will further review the recommended disallowances regarding nursing staff and direct care teaching staff to determine if the amount of the disallowance is warranted. SED will recover any overpayments, as appropriate, by recalculating tuition rates.

Recommendation 2: "Remind Block officials of the pertinent SED requirements that relate to the deficiencies we identified."

SED will continue to provide technical assistance whenever requested and will strongly recommend Block officials avail themselves of our assistance to help them better understand the rules for cost reporting and criteria for cost reimbursement as presented in the CFR, Regulation and the Reimbursable Cost Manual (RCM). Furthermore, SED will alert Block of online training that is available on SED's webpage. SED recommends that all individuals signing the CFR certification statements, namely the Executive Director and Certified Public Accountant, complete this training. This training is a requirement for preschool special education providers upon approval and reapproval.

Furthermore, SED will require Block to identify the actions it has taken to cure and correct the deficiencies and/or violations identified in the audit. Block's submission to SED must be certified by its Chief Executive Officer, with an attestation from each director, officer, trustee, and shareholder, and must contain all relevant information describing how policies, procedures and practices have been revised to address the specific findings of the audit, and how systemic changes to the internal controls and financial oversight have been implemented.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Brian Zawistowski, Assistant Director of the Rate Setting Unit at 518-474-3227.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Cates-Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sharon Cates-Williams  
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Christopher Suriano  
Phyllis Morris  
Suzanne Bolling  
Brian Zawistowski  
James Kampf  
Jerry Nestleroad