



DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Office of Performance Improvement and Management Services
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January 6, 2017

Hon. Thomas P. DiNapoli
New York State Comptroller
110 State Street, 15th 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 (Department) has taken, or will be taking, to implement the recommendations contained in the Office of the State Comptroller's (OSC) Final Audit Report (2015-S-27) Compliance with the Reimbursable Cost Manual: Easter Seals New York (Easter Seals NY).

Recommendation 1: Review the disallowances identified by our audit and make the necessary adjustments to the costs reported on Easter Seals NY's CFRs and to Easter Seals NY's tuition reimbursement rates, as appropriate.

The Department is currently in the process of reviewing the Consolidated Fiscal Report (CFR) and OSC audit work papers and will make necessary adjustments and recover any overpayments as appropriate by recalculating tuition rates.

Recommendation 2: Remind Easter Seals NY officials of the pertinent SED guidelines relating to the deficiencies we cited.

The Department will continue to provide technical assistance whenever requested and will strongly recommend the Easter Seals NY officials take advantage of our availability to help them better understand the standards for reimbursement as presented in Regulation and the Reimbursable Cost Manual (RCM). Furthermore, CFR training is available both in person, at one of the six locations offered across the State, and online on the Department's webpage. The Department recommends that all individuals signing the CFR certification statements, namely Executive Directors and Certified Public Accountants, complete this training. This training is a requirement for preschool special education providers upon approval and re-approval. The Department intends to require that this training be mandatory for all providers.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Suzanne Bolling, Director of Special Education Fiscal Services at 518-474-3227.

Sincerely,

Sharon Cates-Williams

c: Christopher Suriano
Suzanne Bolling