



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY
12234

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
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December 22, 2017

Mr. Stephen J. Goss, CIA, CGFM
Audit Director
NYS Office of the State Comptroller
110 State Street
Albany, NY 12236

Re: Response to Oversight of School Fire Safety Compliance Report 2017-F-22

Dear Mr. Goss:

The State Education Department (Department) has reviewed the follow-up report issued on November 28, 2017 regarding actions taken by the Department to implement recommendations contained in the OSC prior audit report, *Oversight of School Fire Safety Compliance* (2015-S-86).

Please see the following responses to information contained in the follow-up report:

Recommendation 1

Response: The Department received about \$2 million from the Legislature for Information Technology (IT) improvements. However, we wish to clarify that a portion of the amount, not the full amount, is being used for system modernization and better ways of reporting and analyzing data for the fire safety system. The remainder of money received is being used for other Department office IT improvements.

Recommendation 4

Response: Per response to Recommendation 1 above, the Department is using a portion of the \$2 million received from the Legislature for improvements and expanded capabilities for data analysis and reporting for the fire safety system.

The Department appreciates the thoughtful process undertaken by the State Comptroller's Office in both this follow up and the original audit. We are also grateful

for your recognition of the progress we have made in improving the areas of risk that the original audit identified. We intend to continue our efforts regarding the other issues. Thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Cates-Williams".

Deputy Commissioner

Sharon Cates-Williams

Deputy Commissioner

cc: Thalia Melendez
Jhone Ebert
Renee Rider
Christina Coughlin