



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

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
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April 26, 2018

Mr. Steven Goss
Audit Director
Division of State Government Accountability
Office of the State Comptroller
110 State Street – 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12236-0001

Dear Mr. Goss:

The following is the New York State Education Department's (Department) response to the final audit report, 2017-F-30; Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Program, which is a follow-up report on actions taken by the Department as a result of the audit report 2016-S-10: UPK Program Monitoring of Health and Safety Requirements.

Recommendation 1: Develop requirements and issue formal guidance for school districts to follow when performing health and safety inspections of UPK facilities.

Status: Implemented.

Recommendation 2: Implement a structured system to monitor school districts' oversight and inspections of health and safety compliance of all UPK providers. The system should include procedures to ensure that deficiencies identified during inspections are corrected in a timely manner.

Status: Partially Implemented

We agree with this status. The Department is continuing the process of modifying its electronic reporting system to include a section for UPK program providers to list any deficiencies identified during visits to provider sites to ensure health and safety compliance, corrected actions, and any other subsequent actions by the district. The Department will review the reports and follow-up with districts as necessary.

Yours truly,

Sharon Cates-Williams
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Thalia Melendez
Renee Rider
Betsy Kenney