



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

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR OPERATIONS
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June 1, 2010

Mr. David R. Hancox
Audit Director
Office of the State Comptroller
Division of State Government Accountability
110 State Street, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12236

Dear Mr. Hancox:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 170 of the Executive Law, the following are responses to the recommendations contained in the Office of the State Comptroller's Final Audit Report (2008-S-154) of the State Education Department: Security Over Online Registration Renewal and Teacher Certification.

Recommendation 1:

Department managers should provide proper security over the sensitive data in the Registration Renewal and Teacher Certification applications. This includes providing adequate oversight and guidance to implement the necessary controls and procedures to address the findings noted in this report.

We agree with this recommendation. NYSED is confident that it currently provides adequate and appropriate security over the sensitive data in the Registration Renewal and Teacher Certification applications. As the information security threats change and standards and practices evolve, we continuously implement additional improvements. In fact, scans conducted by the OSC audit team revealed some opportunities for improvement that were immediately implemented.

To ensure that we are implementing the best practices as security threats change and PCI standards are modified and clarified, the Department plans to conduct a more in depth review by a PCI Security Standards Council qualified security assessor subject to funding availability to identify any appropriate additional measures that can be introduced to our security environment.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Richard Melita, Director, Information Technology Services, at (518) 474-4640.

Sincerely,

Theresa E. Savo

c: Commissioner Steiner
Richard Melita
James Conway