

Office of the Independent Monitor

Modified Consent Decree

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July 15, 2004

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Re: Final Approval of 2004-05 Annual Plan

Dear Mr. Myers, Ms. Blakemore, Ms. Ott, and Mrs. Jaque-Anton:

On July 9, 2004, I received the District's revised 2004-05 Annual Plan. This new Plan is a considerable improvement over the initially submitted plan. I applaud the District for the remarkable work it has done to produce a revised 2004-05 Annual Plan within a short period of time. It is clear that this work has resulted from close consideration of my recommendations for

revision by the leadership of the Division of Special Education. It is also clear that District staff with experience in each outcome area engaged in a process of data review and analysis prior to the development of the new and revised action steps, evidence of completion, and timelines. The new Annual Plan presents a clear path toward achievement of the outcomes. It presents clear expectations for progress and action at each level of the District and provides a strong measure of accountability.

While the District has produced a credible plan that can lead to considerable progress toward the outcomes of the Modified Consent Decree, the Plan has little value unless it is implemented. Similarly, accountability on paper must be translated into real accountability for results at the local District and school level. In the absence of effective implementation and enforcement of accountability, the improvements and revisions to the 2004-05 Annual Plan will be meaningless. I expect that this will not be the case. Indeed, I look forward to reviewing the positive effects of the implementation of the Annual Plan and assessing the District's progress toward the outcomes during the coming school year.

I approve the 2004-05 Annual Plan.

Sincerely,

Carl A. Cohn

c: Roy Romer, Allyn Kreps, Brigitte Ammons, Thomas Hehir