

Office of the Independent Monitor

Modified Consent Decree

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August 5, 2015

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Ms. Howell, Mr. Myers, and Ms. Blakemore:

After several months of investigation regarding the allegations filed by the Plaintiffs' Counsel on September 8, 2014, I have compiled two reports that detail the efforts of the investigation, findings, and determinations. On August 3, 2015, the Parties met and arrived at a consensus on the steps to be taken to correct the problems identified in the report.

Special education laws and regulations imposed a myriad of expectations on school districts. In my experience, it is impossible to conduct a review of the IEP processes in large school districts where problems cannot be identified. What is most important is not the identification of the problems, but rather the effort to address them. The Parties have demonstrated a commitment to collaboratively work to improve these processes. In particular, I am commending the leadership from the Division of Special Education for their thoughtful considerations to improve the IEP decision-making process. My office looks forward to working with them to support the implementation of the remedies in this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Rostetter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

David Rostetter, Ed.D.
Independent Monitor

c: Ramon Cortines, Deneen Evans Cox