



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

May 14, 2019

Charles Zogby
Financial Administrator
Erie Public Schools
148 West 21st Street
Erie, PA 16502
czogby@pa.gov

SENT VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Mr. Zogby:

I am in receipt of the resubmitted proposed Financial Improvement Plan (the “Plan”) you, as Financial Administrator for the Erie Public Schools (the “District”), submitted by correspondence dated May 1, 2019. Pursuant to section 695-A of the Public School Code (“School Code”), 24 P.S. § 6-695-A, a financial improvement plan must include the following:

1. Performance goals, benchmarks and timetables to improve the financial performance and ensure fiscal solvency of the district;
2. Cash flow analysis;
3. Projections of revenues and expenditures for the current year and next five years, both assuming the continuation of present operations and as impacted by measures included in the plan;
4. Annual training for members of the board of school directors, to include no less than 10 hours in school finance and policy provided by a Statewide organization specializing in school finance and administration and approved by the financial administrator; and
5. Facility maintenance and improvement.

Additionally, section 695-A charges a financial administrator with reviewing existing district policy and procedures to consider whether the financial plan should include changes to be made to existing policy and procedures regarding:

1. Accounting and automation procedures;
2. Permanent staffing levels;
3. Performance goals that administrative staff must meet for contract renewal;
4. Changes in school district policy;
5. Sale, lease, conveyance, assignment, or disposition of school district assets;
6. Consolidation of existing school buildings, existing noninstructional programs or other school district services; and
7. Greater use of intermediate unit programs.

See 24 P.S. § 6-695-A.

The resubmitted Plan meets the aforementioned requirements and includes performance goals, benchmarks, and corresponding timetables. The Plan further addresses all the points set forth in my March 18, 2019 letter disapproving the initial Financial Improvement Plan. Accordingly, in accordance with section 695-A(e) of the School Code, 24 P.S. § 6-695-A(e), I hereby approve the Financial Improvement Plan submitted on May 1, 2019.

I want to thank you for your prompt response to the concerns raised in my March 18, 2019 disapproval letter. I appreciate the time and effort that have been spent in developing the Plan, as well as the further time and effort that will be required to assist in implementation of the Plan.

I look forward to presenting the Plan with you to the District's board of school directors and community members on May 16, 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pedro A. Rivera', is written over a large, light blue oval shape.

Pedro A. Rivera
Secretary of Education

cc: Brian J. Polito, Superintendent (bpolito@eriesd.org)
Frank Petrunjar, Jr., President, Board of School Directors (f.petrunjar@eriesd.org)