



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

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

To: Members of the Board of Regents

From: John B. King Jr., Commissioner

Subject: Appointment of Dr. Judy Elliott as Distinguished Educator to the Buffalo City School District

Date: June 22, 2012

I am writing to inform you that I have appointed Dr. Judy Elliott as a Distinguished Educator (DE) to the Buffalo City School District effective August 1, 2012. Dr. Elliott will be the first DE appointed under this initiative, which is specified in Education Law §211-b and §211-c and Commissioner's Regulations §100.16 and §100.17. As you are aware, the Buffalo City School District's performance data indicates major academic weaknesses. The District has for nine years been a district in need of improvement. Most recently, the District has been able to implement one of the Four Federal Intervention models in all of the district's Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools. Particularly in light of the appointment of a new superintendent and the restoration of SIG funding following resolution of APPR issues for the 2011-12 school year, I believe that the District will benefit from the appointment of a Distinguished Educator and this is an opportune time to make this appointment.

Dr. Elliott is a highly experienced and nationally recognized educator. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology and M.A. Degrees in School District Administration, School Psychology and Educational Psychology. She holds New York State certifications in School District Administration, School Psychology and in Elementary and Special Education. She is currently an education consultant, serving most recently as one of the peer reviewers for the USDE's ESEA flexibility waiver initiative. Before becoming an educational consultant, Dr. Elliott served as Chief Academic Officer of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Prior positions include Chief of Teaching and Learning in the Portland Public Schools; Assistant Superintendent for School Support Services in the Long Beach Unified School District; and Senior Research Associate at the National Center on Educational Outcomes, College of Education, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Dr. Elliott has been a speaker at numerous conferences; is the author of articles on special education in peer review journals; and a co-author of publications on instruction, testing and test performance for students with disabilities. Dr. Elliott grew up in Buffalo and continues to have roots in the community. She currently serves on the Buffalo State College Foundation Board of Directors.

I have sent a letter to the President of the Buffalo School Board (with a copy to the interim superintendent) informing him of Dr. Elliott's appointment and directing the District to enter into an agreement with Dr. Elliott within thirty (30) days of receipt of the letter. I have also

spoken with Dr. Pamela Brown, who was recently selected to become the next superintendent of the District, to explain the role of the Dr. Elliott and how I expect Dr. Elliott to be a resource to the new superintendent.

As specified in education law, Dr. Elliott is considered a consultant to the Buffalo City School District and her services will be a charge upon the district. Among her other responsibilities Dr. Elliott will conduct an intensive review of district and school systems, structures, and operations and develop an action plan outlining goals and objectives for the ensuing school year that is focused on addressing the needs of the Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools and Priority Schools in the District. She will also serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the board of education.

Later this year, I will ask Dr. Elliott to report to the Board of Regents on her findings regarding the District and her plan of action to support its improvement.

cc: Ken Slentz
Ira Schwartz
Sally Bachofer
Tony Lofrumento