



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 20, 2016

Robert S. Casillo, Board President
Erie City School District
148 West 21st Street
Erie, PA 16502

Dear Mr. Casillo,

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is required to develop and implement an Early Warning System to identify and offer technical assistance to school districts experiencing financial difficulties (24 P.S. § 6-601 *et seq*). Act 86 of 2016 added section 694-A of the Public School Code, 24 P.S. § 6-694-A, which requires PDE to place a school district in Financial Watch Status, a component of the Early Warning System, if the school district receives \$2 million or more in Educational Access Program Funding in any fiscal year. On September 16, 2016, the Erie City School District (District) received \$2 million in Educational Access Program Funding.

This letter serves as your official notification that the District is hereby designated in Financial Watch Status pursuant to section 611-A of the Public School Code of 1949, 24 P.S. § 6-611-A. *See also* 24 P.S. § 6-694-A. As such, PDE will provide technical assistance to help the District address its financial challenges.

In addition to providing the District with technical assistance, section 694-A of the Public School Code requires the District to develop a plan to improve its finances based upon the technical assistance provided by PDE. This plan must be submitted to the Secretary of Education within 180 days of the date of this letter. After the submission of the plan, until the Secretary of Education determines otherwise, the District must annually submit a report outlining the status of the District's plan, meet with the Secretary or a designee to review the report and the status of the District's finances, and hold an annual public hearing regarding the plan.

Please let me know if you have any questions. PDE looks forward to assisting the District with its financial challenges in accordance with the requirements of the Public School Code.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Volkman".

David Volkman

cc: Jay Badams, Superintendent