



Adoption Resolution
September 14, 2022

State of New Jersey
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution to Return Jersey City Public Schools to Full Local Control

Whereas, by administrative order issued by the State Board of Education on October 4, 1989, the State Board of Education removed the Jersey City Board of Education and created a State-Operated School District in Jersey City pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-34; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-10 et seq., effective on January 24, 2007, the New Jersey Legislature, in review and consultation with the Joint Committee on the Public Schools, directed the Commissioner of the Department of Education to develop and implement a system for monitoring and evaluating the thoroughness and efficiency of public school districts in the State of New Jersey to be called the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC); and

Whereas, NJQSAC involves an assessment of each school district's performance in the five key components of school district effectiveness: Instruction and Program, Personnel, Fiscal Management, Operations, and Governance; and

Whereas, local control of Governance and Fiscal Management Operations were returned to Jersey City Public Schools on September 5, 2007, while the remaining key components of school district performance remained under partial State intervention; and

Whereas, the State Board of Education passed resolutions on October 7, 2015 and July 5, 2017 to return the areas of Personnel and Operations, and Instruction and Program, to local control, respectively, while the remaining key components of school district performance continued under partial State intervention; and

Whereas, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.1 the Commissioner determined that the Jersey City Public Schools met the factors for initiating withdrawal from partial intervention and a return to full local control; and

Whereas, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2 the Commissioner recommended to the State Board of Education that the process for withdrawal from partial intervention shall be initiated forthwith in Jersey City Public Schools; and

Whereas, the State Board of Education also passed a Resolution on July 5, 2017 directing the Department of Education, in collaboration with Jersey City Public Schools, to develop a full transition plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2 and 7.3 and initiate the process of withdrawal of the Jersey City Public Schools from partial State intervention; and

Whereas, the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Jersey City Public Schools, developed a full transition plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2 and 7.3, which established the framework for the return to local control of the school district and went into effect on October 25, 2018; and

Whereas, pursuant to the transition plan, the Commissioner appointed a Highly Skilled Professional (HSP), Dr. Elnardo Webster, to Jersey City Public Schools to provide the school district with technical assistance in implementing the transition plan, to serve as a liaison between the school district and the Department of Education, and to provide qualitative observations regarding the school district's progress under the transition plan. The Commissioner subsequently appointed two additional HSPs, Dr. Stephen Cowan and Dr. Alexis Colander, to assist in the transition; and

Whereas, pursuant to the transition plan, the Department of Education partnered with an independent entity, the Bloustein Local Government Research Center of Rutgers University, to form a Comprehensive Accountability Office (CAO); and

Whereas, pursuant to the transition plan, the CAO was tasked with collecting, analyzing and publishing data regarding the ongoing operations and performance of the school district and

the school district’s quantitative progress in implementing the transition plan, as measured by metrics on an Accountability Scorecard; and

Whereas, the CAO completed three reports regarding the school district’s progress in implementing the transition plan, a first annual report, a progress report, and a final report; and

Whereas, the CAO’s final report confirms that the school district successfully completed the quantitative metrics on the Accountability Scorecard and fulfilled the requirements of the transition plan; and

Whereas, the HSPs completed three reports regarding the school district’s progress in implementing the transition plan and their final report confirms that the school district fulfilled the requirements of the transition plan and has developed systems and processes to sustain the school district’s practices and progress; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.6, the Commissioner has determined that the Jersey City Public Schools has successfully implemented the full transition plan and recommends to the State Board of Education the withdrawal from State intervention be completed and the Jersey City Public Schools be returned fully to local control; and be it further

Resolved, that the State Board of Education approves the withdrawal of the Jersey City Public Schools from State intervention and further approves that the Jersey City Public Schools be returned fully to local control.

Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education

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