



STATE OF DELAWARE

TO: Representative Earl G. Jaques

FROM: Michael S. Jackson
Director, Office of Management and Budget

Michael L. Morton
Controller General, Office of the Controller General

Susan Bunting
Secretary, Department of Education

Richard Gregg
Superintendent, Christina School District

DATE: February 14, 2019

SUBJECT: Delaware Autism Program Administration

In accordance with the provisions of 81 Del. Laws c. 395 (HB 292 of the 149th General Assembly), the purpose of this memorandum is to document an agreed upon path forward for the administration of the Delaware Autism Program (DAP). In order to ensure students with autism and their families receive the best support the state can provide, the Delaware Department of Education, the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of the Controller General, and Christina School District have agreed to the following:

1. The Christina School District shall continue to administer the DAP.
2. The expired MOU between the district and DOE shall be updated and presented to the State Board of Education for its consideration of the Christina School District continuing to administer the DAP.
3. The former statewide director, Dr. Vincent Winterling, will fulfill some of the duties of the statewide director on a contractual basis until such time as the district hires a full-time statewide director. Through this period the DAP will be administered by the district with

support from the Department of Education as needed until the Christina School District hires a full-time statewide director.

4. A group of stakeholders from the autism community, chosen by DOE and CSD, will convene to review the parameters of the current job description of the statewide director and update as necessary to provide the district the ability and flexibility to attract the highest quality candidates. That group shall seek input from parties statewide including the Peer Review Committee established in § 1332 14 Del.C in finalizing the parameters of the position. With the approval of the State Board of Education, the position will be posted for hire by the Christina School District.
5. Once the statewide director has been hired, legislation amending § 1332, Title 14, Delaware Code will be drafted for consideration by the General Assembly to reflect the authority of Christina School District to administer the Delaware Autism Program, fund the statewide director, and continue to provide the services it has previously offered. Our respective offices are united in the work we are doing and appreciate the passion behind ensuring the success of the Delaware Autism Program.

cc: Christina Board of Education via Superintendent Gregg
Robert Silber, Christina School District
Representative Peter C. Schwartzkopf
Representative Valerie Longhurst
Representative John L. Mitchell
Representative Quinn Johnson
Representative Daniel B. Short
Representative Timothy D. Dukes
Senator David B. McBride
Senator Nicole Poore
Senator Bryan Townsend
Senator Harris B. McDowell
Senator Gerald W. Hocker
Senator Catherine Cloutier