



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

October 21, 2009

Joel I. Klein, Chancellor  
New York City Department of Education  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chancellor Klein,

We write today about New York City Department of Education's implementation of the newly enacted legislation reauthorizing mayoral control. Chapter 345 of the Laws of 2009 provided that the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) now has the authority to approve certain contracts issued by NYCDOE.

We have been advised that NYCDOE issued to the PEP summaries of qualifying contracts, not the contract language itself.

New York State Education Law 2590-g(5) states that the PEP has "the power and duty" to "approve any contract awarded by the city district or the community districts where... the value of such contract exceeds, or projects an annual expenditure exceeding one million dollars; or the value of any contracts awarded to a single entity exceeds one million dollars annually."

We are concerned that providing only a summary of contract materials to the PEP does not allow the body to fulfill its responsibility and urge you to reexamine this policy.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Nolan".

Hon. Catherine Nolan  
Chair, Committee on Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel O'Donnell".

Hon. Daniel O'Donnell  
Assembly Member, 69<sup>th</sup> District