



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
333 MARKET STREET  
HARRISBURG, PA 17126-0333

SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

717-787-5820 (TEL)  
717-787-7222 (FAX)  
717-783-8445 (TTY)

May 30, 2013

Mr. Gene G. Veno  
Chief Recovery Officer  
Harrisburg School District  
2101 North Front Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-1081

Re: Harrisburg School District Financial Recovery Plan


Dear Mr. Veno:

I am in receipt of the Financial Recovery Plan that was approved by the Harrisburg School District's (District) Board of School Directors on May 17, 2013. I appreciate all of the time and effort that went into developing the Financial Recovery Plan, and I want to commend you for developing a comprehensive plan to set the District on a path to financial stability and improved academic performance.

At this time, however, there is an issue that must be addressed before I can approve the Financial Recovery Plan. The Department has recently learned of the District's plan to sell a parcel of property located in Susquehanna Township. As you are aware, that specific parcel of property was conveyed by the Commonwealth to the District for the construction of a middle school. Although the parcel of property was conveyed, the deed contains a clause that requires reversion of the property to the Commonwealth if the District ceases to use the property for public school purposes. Because the Financial Recovery Plan only provides that the revenue from all land sales will be set aside for capital projects, I am constrained to deny the Financial Recovery Plan at this time. In order to approve the Financial Recovery Plan, the District must demonstrate that it has the legal authority to enter into a valid agreement of sale that will transfer clean title of the property to a prospective buyer.

Please resubmit the Financial Recovery Plan to the Department for review with the requested information.

Sincerely,

  
Ronald J. Tomalis