



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO BOX 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Commissioner

December 21, 2012

The Honorable Chris Christie
Governor
State House
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625-001

The Honorable Stephen M. Sweeney
Senate President
State House
P.O. Box 098
Trenton, NJ 08625

The Honorable Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Republican Leader
State House
P.O. Box 099
Trenton, NJ 08625

The Honorable Sheila Oliver
Assembly Speaker
State House
P.O. Box 098
Trenton, NJ 08625

The Honorable Jon M. Bramnick
Assembly Republican Leader
State House
P.O. Box 099
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Christie, Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Oliver, Senate Leader Kean and Assembly Leader Bramnick:

Enclosed for your consideration is the final report of the Reading Disabilities Task Force. This thirteen-member task force was established through legislation in 2010, and was charged with assessing practices for diagnosing, treating, and educating children with reading disabilities, examining how current statutes and regulations affect these students, and presenting its findings and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

The report provides a useful review and analysis of current practice and law in New Jersey and other states on identifying and educating students with reading disabilities. It offers six thoughtful recommendations aimed at improving the screening and interventions provided to students with reading disabilities, including dyslexia. This discussion is necessary,

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in order to properly address a number of critical issues facing our schools and students, including the early detection of dyslexia and other reading disabilities. The Department will consider these recommendations, in light of cost constraints and other potential complications, and move forward with implementation as appropriate. The timely identification and effective management of reading disabilities is critical in effectively supporting the success of these children and in ensuring that all students in New Jersey are college- and career-ready.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ch D Cerf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Christopher D. Cerf
Commissioner

CDC/sg/hl

Enclosure

c: Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno
Kevin O'Dowd
Charles B. McKenna
William Caruso
Richard Wright
Timothy Lydon
James Harkness