



Office of the Superintendent
Cami Anderson, Superintendent
2 Cedar Street · Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: 973-733-7333 · Fax: 973-733-6834



Cami Anderson
Superintendent

April 24, 2015

Congressman Donald M. Payne Jr.
103 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2010

Congressman Payne,

Thank you for bringing to my attention that you have experienced some difficulty in reaching my office. Your experience is by no means intentional, and must be the result of miscommunication between systems. I'm very sorry for the frustration this caused and wanted to make sure you know how to reach my office directly in the future.

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to engage in a dialogue with you around public education for our children in Newark and across New Jersey. My team and I have had to make some very difficult decisions over the last few years in the interest of creating a sustainable system that provides high quality options for all students. We are beginning to see real signs of improvement across all schools in the District, not just charters and magnets, and are particularly proud of the following achievements since 2011:

- We added 1,000 pre-K seats and the majority of families eligible for free pre-K are now enrolled.
- The number of K-8 schools characterized as "good" increased from 14 to 20 and the number characterized as "on the move" increased from 6 to 12.
- Our first cohort of Renew Schools saw gains in reading and math, 5 Renew Schools saw gains in both.
- We launched 4 new high schools and obtained NPS' first International Baccalaureate status.
- The overall graduation rate increased by approximately 10 percentage points and the number of students passing the HSPA graduation test increased by approximately 11 percentage points.
- We implemented a restorative justice approach to school culture and discipline which has decreased all suspensions by 37%, and out-of school suspensions by 23%.
- The Brookings Institute recently named NPS the #3 District in the country for the quality and diversity of school choices.
- We kept 95% of our highly effective and effective teachers while nearly 40% of our ineffective teachers exited the system.

We need the support of leaders like you in order to create the conditions for continued improvement. I wholeheartedly believe that through our commitment and hard work all students in Newark will be in excellent schools one day. I look forward to connecting with you on this vision.

Please let me know if you have availability for a meeting or phone conversation. Additionally, if you have particular questions about our work, please let me know and our office will work to address them. Ruben Roberts, Executive Director of Community Affairs and Engagement, is available directly at (973) 558-0799 or (973) 733-8687, and will pass your message immediately on to me.

Sincerely,

Cami Anderson