



*State of New Jersey*

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF LAW  
25 MARKET STREET  
PO Box 112  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0112

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

CHRISTOPHER S. PORRINO  
*Attorney General*

MICHELLE LYN. MILLER  
*Acting Director*

October 17, 2016

Via Regular Mail and Fax to 609-689-4100

Honorable Solomon Metzger, A.L.J.  
Office of Administrative Law  
9 Quakerbridge Plaza  
P.O. Box 049  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0049

Re: Leonor Alcantara, individually and as Guardian ad Litem for E.A.; Leslie Johnson, individually and as Guardian ad Litem for D.J.; Juana Perez, individually and as Guardian ad Litem for Y.P.; Tatiana Escobar; and Ira Schulman individually and as Guardian ad Litem for A.S. v. David Hesse, Comm'r of the N.J. Dep't of Educ.; the N.J. State Bd. of Educ.; and the N.J. Dep't of Educ.  
Agency Reference No.: 156-6/14  
Docket No.: EDU 11069-2014S

Dear Judge Metzger:

Please accept this letter on behalf of Respondents, the Commissioner of Education, the Department of Education, and the State Board of Education ("State Respondents") in response to the Motion to Participate filed by the Lakewood School District ("Lakewood" or "District"). State Respondents have consistently maintained, and continue to maintain, that Lakewood is a necessary party to this litigation. Lakewood has a significant interest in the outcome of this matter as the case relates to the District's State funding. It is, however, unclear how Lakewood would be able to provide constructive input in the case while at the same time declining to participate in the development of the factual record in the matter. See (Lakewood Br. at 8).



Accordingly, while noting that there is a legitimate question as to whether Lakewood would be able to add constructively to the case as a participant rather than a party in this matter, State Respondents leave the decision on Lakewood's Motion to Participate to the Court's discretion.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHER S. PORRINO  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

By: 

Geoffrey N. Stark  
Deputy Attorney General  
N.J. Attorney I.D. No.: 01811-2010

cc: Arthur H. Lang, Esq. (via email)  
Daniel Louis Grossman, Esq. (via email)  
Paul L. Trachtenberg, Esq. (via email)  
Eric L. Harrison, Esq. (via email)  
Marc H. Zitomer, Esq. (via email)