



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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EXECUTIVE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER  
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October 4, 2022

Mr. Brian Reilly  
Audit Director  
Office of the State Comptroller  
110 State Street  
Albany, NY 12236

Dear Mr. Reilly:

The New York State Education Department (Department) offers the following information as our 180-day follow up to the Comptroller's recommendations in the Audit Report 2020-S-063, New York State Education Department's Oversight of Mental Health in Schools.

**OSC Recommendation 1:**

*Develop a mechanism to determine if school districts are providing mental health education as required by Law.*

**NYSED Response:**

Beginning with the 2022-23 school year, the Department is collecting information from public schools regarding compliance with Education Law § 804 and Commissioner's regulations §135.3 regarding health instruction provided to all students, including instruction in mental health and that the curriculum includes mental health and the relationship of physical and mental health. **Status:** Implemented.

**OSC Recommendation 2:**

*Explore partnering with State and local entities to determine whether school districts should maintain certain staffing levels for mental health professionals.*

**NYSED Response:**

As indicated in our response to the audit, the Department will continue collaborative efforts with State and local entities and will persistently advocate for additional funds to support schools in these efforts. **Status:** Partially Implemented.

If you have any additional questions or need additional clarification, please contact Kathleen DeCataldo at [Kathleen.DeCataldo@nysed.gov](mailto:Kathleen.DeCataldo@nysed.gov).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Cates-Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sharon Cates-Williams

c: Kathleen DeCataldo  
Christopher Suriano  
Rose LeRoy  
James Kampf  
Jeanne Day