



**For Immediate Release
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For more information, please contact the Office of Communications at 435-5800.

Syracuse City School District Names Independent Monitor

The New York State Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and the Syracuse City School District have reached an agreement on an Assurance of Discontinuance (AOD) that will ensure that the District will adopt and implement fair and appropriate disciplinary practices to reduce the use of school suspensions through preventative and positive behavioral interventions as well as ensure students' due process rights in the event of suspensions. As part of the Assurance of Discontinuance, the District has hired an independent monitor, Tisha Edwards.

As the Independent Monitor Ms. Edwards role will be to ensure compliance with the District's Assurance of Discontinuance with the New York State Office of the Attorney General with respect to the district's disciplinary policies, procedures and practices. Ms. Edwards will have independence with respect to access to and review of records, documents, and data to analyze and document the extent to which the District is complying with the terms of the Assurance.

She will prepare and submit quarterly reports to the OAG documenting the District's compliance with each provision of the Assurance. In addition she will make recommendations to the Superintendent, Board of Education, and OAG as necessary to promote and ensure compliance with the Assurance.

Ms. Edwards brings a wealth of knowledge, expertise and school leadership with her to this new position. Most recently she served as the Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Public Schools where she led the nearly 85,000 student district for 2013-14 school year. Prior to that role she was the Chief of Staff and Special Assistant to the CEO in Baltimore. Having also served as a high school building principal she understands the daily challenges urban school leaders face.

You can reach Ms. Edwards by email at Tedwards@scsd.us or by phone at (315) 289-5824.

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