

**NOTICE TO VENDORS OF  
THE PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

As you may know, on July 23, 2019 the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education (the “Council”) delegated to the Rhode Island Commissioner of Education (the “Commissioner”) the Council’s power and authority to take actions consistent with, and in furtherance of, the Rhode Island Department of Education’s (“RIDE”) intervention in and support of the Providence Public School District (the “PPSD”), which would include assuming control over the PPSD, the reconstitution of the Providence Public Schools and any other power (at law and in equity) available to the Council.

Pursuant to that power and the power granted to RIDE under The Paul W. Crowley Rhode Island Student Investment Initiative, R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-7.1-5, on October 15, 2019, the Commissioner issued an Order of Control and Reconstitution. In accordance with that Order, RIDE has assumed control and decision-making authority over the PPSD, including over its budget, program and personnel. The Commissioner will be appointing a State Turnaround Superintendent to assist with those efforts.

The Commissioner is committed to ensuring that the PPSD has access to high-quality, affordable services and resources that meet students and educator’s needs.

The Commissioner contends and believes that the contracts between PPSD and its vendors do not bind her in the exercise of her statutory powers and authorities unless the City assigns those agreements to RIDE and RIDE accepts the assignment.

The Commissioner and/or the State Turnaround Superintendent will be reviewing all vendor contracts with the PPSD and will evaluate those contracts to ensure that they: (1) provide for the delivery of high-quality services or resources; (2) are affordable and fit within the PPSD’s budget; (3) meet the needs of the PPSD and its students and educators; and (4) fit within the Commissioner’s overall objectives for the turnaround of the PPSD. The City intends to assign to RIDE those contracts that the Commissioner determines meet this criteria. If an assignment is made, you will receive notice in writing.

Likewise, if material changes are made by the Commissioner or the State Turnaround Superintendent that impact you, those changes will be communicated to you in writing. In the meantime, the Commissioner expects that vendors will continue to provide services to PPSD, as they have, and will perform the terms of their contracts unless they are otherwise given notice in writing.