



## NJDOE News

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### **Acting Commissioner Appoints State Monitor for Camden**

Nicholas C. Puleio, a veteran school business administrator with 27 years of experience in four New Jersey districts, has been appointed as the state monitor for the Camden schools by acting Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy.

This appointment is a part of ongoing efforts by Governor Jon S. Corzine and his administration to ensure that state aid is spent efficiently and effectively and to hold public officials accountable for their decisions regarding the use of the public funds.

Under the "School District Accountability Act" signed by Governor Corzine in April, the Commissioner may appoint a state monitor in districts where serious fiscal deficiencies have been identified in the district's annual audit.

Puleio's work in Camden is contingent on his last day in his current job as Business Administrator and Board Secretary in Brick Township. He could start work on or about Dec. 1, 2006.

Puleio will report to acting Commissioner Davy and will immediately begin working on correcting the serious financial problems that continue to plague the Camden School District. Mr. Puleio will work alongside the Camden Intervention Team.

"We are very pleased that Nick Puleio, who is so highly respected in this field, has agreed to take on what we all know will be a very complex job," Acting Commissioner Davy said. "This is a very important initiative in the effort to turn the Camden school system around.

"The Camden Intervention Team has been working with the district on governance, program and instruction issues, and many steps have been taken to get Camden back on track in these areas," acting Commissioner Davy said. "But it has become very clear from the scope and magnitude of the problems cited in the district's recent audits that the need for greater financial accountability in the Camden must be addressed in a significant way.

"The new law permitting monitors has given DOE a new tool to get into the district with real authority to change the way things are done in the district," Davy said.

The acting Commissioner said the interim monitor's top priorities will include:

- Developing and overseeing a comprehensive action plan that will address the district's serious ongoing financial deficiencies as documented in the annual fiscal audit;
- Establishing specific procedures that will ensure the district's finances are in order, including proper management of cash receipts and proper purchasing and payment procedures;
- Monitoring budget appropriation accounts to prevent over-commitments and ensure all expenditures are consistent with approved budget needs; and
- Reviewing overall district business operations and procedures to be more efficient in the way district funds are spent.

Puleio's contract runs until June 30, 2009. The Commissioner also has the ability to end Mr. Puleio's work in the district prior to June 30, 2009 if all goals are met.

Since 2001, Puleio has served as school business administrator and board secretary in Brick, a K-12, 11,600-student district in Ocean County. He has also served in those same positions in Lawrence in Mercer County (1987-2001), Neptune (1980-1987) and Spotswood (1979-1981).

A former president of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, he has been an adjunct professor at the Rider University Graduate School of Education since 1990, where he teaches certification courses for school business administrators. He also serves as a DOE mentor for newly-certified BAs.

Puleio holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Parsons College and a master's degree in education from Trenton State College (now the College of New Jersey). He lives in North Brunswick.

For more information, please contact the Department of Education Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126.