



ALABAMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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February 7, 2018

Dr. Ed Richardson
Interim Superintendent
Alabama State Department of Education
50 North Ripley Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Dr. Richardson:

This letter is sent with great urgency and concern. As you know, the Montgomery Public Schools (MPS) system has been awaiting the return of \$1.4 million that was mistakenly sent to the Pike Road Schools (PRS) system around November 2016.

It is our understanding that the Alabama State Department of Education has acknowledged that these funds were disbursed to PRS as a result of a clerical miscalculation.

Because more than a year has passed without this mistake being properly rectified with the return of the MPS funding, we are certain you can appreciate the great concern shared with us by school system leaders and parents of the children who were rightfully entitled to receive this funding. Frustration with the apparent stalling on the \$1.4 million repayment is heightened by the increasingly precarious state of MPS, including the state takeover and recently released "failing schools list", which included 11 MPS schools. They ask, "How can the State continue to withhold funds that are critically needed to save a failing system? Why are our children being denied access to funds that should have been used for classroom instruction?" Unfortunately, we are without a reasonable response to their questions and concerns, and more specifically, we share their frustration and growing outrage.

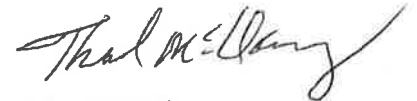
As such, we write to you with hopes that you can assist us in gaining a fair and long-overdue resolution to this pending matter. We are also appreciative of any information that you can provide to offer a proper explanation that may assuage our constituents' concerns.

We are available at any time to discuss further, and we look forward to your prompt reply and, more importantly, the prompt resolution of this important fiscal matter. As always, we extend thanks for your continued leadership and service to advancing education in our great state.

Sincerely,



John F. Knight, Jr.



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