



Lenny Speiller
Executive Director
Office of Public Affairs

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May 18, 2012

Larry Norden
Brennan Center for Justice
161 6th Avenue
New York, NY 10013

Dick Dadey
Citizens Union
299 Broadway, Suite 700
New York, NY 10007

Steve Carbo
Demos
220 Fifth Ave, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10001

Neal Rubenstein
New York Public Interest Research Group
9 Murray Street, Suite 3
New York, NY 10007

Margaret Fung
Asian American Legal Defense and
Education Fund
99 Hudson Street, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10013

Ruth E. Acker
Women's City Club
307 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1403
New York, NY 10001

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your letter to Chancellor Walcott regarding the Department of Education's implementation of the Young Adult Voter Registration Act, or YAVRA.

As stated in your letter, YAVRA requires the Department to provide voter registration forms to every graduating senior and to every high school for placement in their respective central offices. We share your commitment to providing our students with the opportunity to register to vote and participate in the democratic process. To this end, the Department has complied with YAVRA since the 2004-5 school year, when the legislation first became effective.

The Department's Division of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) manages the implementation of YAVRA. Every year the appropriate number of registration forms is ordered from the NYC Board of Elections after we have identified the number of potential graduating seniors from our approximately 500 high schools and District 79 programs. The registration forms are then delivered to schools along with a memo to school leaders, which outlines the provisions in YAVRA and explains how the registration forms should be distributed. This year a letter will also be provided to school leaders for distribution with their voter registration forms, encouraging students to return their registration cards and become active voters. We maintain communication with schools throughout the process to ensure that they are aware of their obligations, have sufficient materials to distribute and make the required distribution.



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In the weeks before graduation a notice is also included in the Chancellor's weekly newsletter to principals regarding the requirements pursuant to YAVRA.

I hope this information is helpful. Please feel free to contact me, or Nnennaya Okezie, our Director of City Legislative Affairs at Nokezie@schools.nyc.gov or (212) 374-4947 should you have any additional questions or concerns.

Thank you again for writing and for your commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. H. Speiller", written over a horizontal line.

Lenny H. Speiller

cc: Jesse Mojica, Executive Director, Division of Family and Community Engagement