

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Hodgson Anessa" <AHodgson@schools.nyc.gov>
Date: Apr 29, 2016 5:02 PM
Subject: Msg to Mayor Re: Absent Teacher Reserve
To: "camilleartemus@gmail.com" <camilleartemus@gmail.com>
Cc: "Davis Thorne Monica" <MADavis@schools.nyc.gov>

Dear Ms. Artemus:

Thank you for your email to Mayor de Blasio. Your correspondence has been forwarded to the New York City Department of Education (DOE) so that we may respond accordingly. We appreciate you sharing your concerns with us.

Please be advised that we are addressing the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request referenced in your email in accordance with New York State law.

With that said, please know that teachers who do not have a position when school starts are assigned to the Absent Teacher Reserve (ATR) pool. This could be when one school has lower-than-expected enrollment or teachers return from leave resulting in too many teachers on staff. Furthermore, assignment to the ATR pool is often unrelated to a teacher's effectiveness, similar to consulting firms and law firms that have professionals briefly without an assignment.

Please also note that the 2014 teachers' contract put in place new provisions designed to reduce the number of teachers in the ATR pool and the length of time teachers spend in the ATR pool. The goal was to get good teachers back into the classroom, struggling teachers out of the system, and minimize the cost to taxpayers. These provisions and other actions have led to 450 exits of ATR teachers from the school system since January 2014. Moreover, within the past two years, there has been a consistent, steady decline in the number of teachers in the ATR pool. As of January 2016, there are 1,083 teachers in the ATR pool, 249 fewer than at this point in January 2014. As we have worked to get teachers who do not belong in the classroom out of the ATR, we have also worked to get high-quality teachers out of the ATR pool and back into regular assignments. Additionally, since the start of the 2015-16 school year alone, over 500 ATR teachers have been hired into regular positions, and that number continues to grow.

I hope this information has helped to clarify this matter. Thank you again for writing to the Mayor.

Sincerely,

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