



Jesse B Rauch
Executive Director
D.C. State Board of Education
441 4th Street NW, Suite 723N
Washington, DC 20001

April 10, 2015,

Hospitality High School of Washington, DC for a number of reasons relinquished our charter on April 18, 2014. Our school found itself in a unique position for the current school year. We are neither a public charter school, nor a DC public school this year. HHS is preparing to merge and transition into the DCPS system for the next school year in 2015-2016.

As a result, on August 12, 2014, former Mayor Gray delegated the authority to the State Superintendent of Education to manage our school. As our governing agency OSSE has been delegated the authority to take any and all actions in connection with the management and operation of the school.

There have been ongoing, multiple, and unique legal issues, processes, and procedures involved in this transition process. OSSE has continued to take the lead and serve as our governing authority. OSSE serves as the lead advocate and provides oversight for our program; while focusing on the ongoing success and achievement of our students to ensure a seamless transition for the students we serve.

The ability of OSSE to grant diplomas is a necessary and logical action required for OSSE to effectively manage this process. OSSE has the authority to ensure that we have complied and adhered to all requirements and criteria to award diplomas in the District of Columbia to our seniors. The ability to award diplomas resides in their purview as our governing agency.

OSSE is required to validate and approve the data and criteria for awarding our diplomas. In my opinion, there is no logical reason why the authority to award diplomas should not be approved and granted to OSSE. In those circumstances, where OSSE is clearly the delegated authority held accountable as the governing agency, the authority to effectively manage the operations of the organization should be granted and reside with them as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael R. Cucciardo'.

Michael R. Cucciardo
Executive Director

