News for Immediate Release

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Auditor General DePasquale Welcomes Harrisburg School District's Move Toward Transparency, Continues to Monitor

HARRISBURG – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today welcomed reports that the Harrisburg School District will cooperate with auditors working for the Pennsylvania Department of Education and promised to continue monitoring the situation.

"While I'm pleased that there appears to be progress, I will continue to monitor the district's level of cooperation to help ensure there is a full accounting of district finances," DePasquale said. "The district's students and taxpayers deserve nothing short of complete and total transparency.

"It is in everyone's best interest for the district to give the Education Department's auditors access to the information they need to do their job."

The district's initial refusal to cooperate had drawn sharp criticism from DePasquale, who last week called the school board's efforts to stonewall auditors "unacceptable."

The standoff had led some city leaders to suggest placing the district under full state control. The district has been operating under state-imposed financial recovery status since 2012.

Released in 2015, DePasquale's <u>last audit</u> of the Harrisburg School District found the district was struggling with excessive debt, declining tax revenues and a sharp increase in payments to charter schools.

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