



**Rockland
Update on the
Crisis in the
East Ramapo
School District**

The seal of the New York State Assembly is positioned behind the title text. It features a central figure of an eagle with wings spread, perched on a globe. The eagle is surrounded by a circular border containing the text "ASSEMBLY" at the top and "OF NEW YORK" at the bottom, with two stars on either side.

From
**Assemblyman
Ken Zebrowski**

EAST RAMAPO AND THE NEED FOR OVERSIGHT

The Problem

The East Ramapo School District is a district in crisis:

- ✓ **The district is in extreme financial trouble.** East Ramapo is the third most fiscally stressed school district in New York State.
- ✓ **East Ramapo is failing academically.** The district is in the bottom 10% of academic performance statewide and their graduation rates are declining while the statewide average is increasing.
- ✓ **There is a deep conflict between the board and parents.** 70% of school board meetings are held behind closed doors and parents have lost trust in the school district.
- ✓ **Disproportionate and deep cuts have been made** on the backs of public school students resulting in the elimination of 50% of after school activities, athletics, and teaching positions.
- ✓ **Fiscal Monitor Hank Greenberg conducted** an independent report last year. His report detailed the fiscal and academic difficulties that the district is facing. He recommended strong oversight in order to get the district back on track.

The Solution

Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski and his colleagues have introduced an oversight bill (A.5355/S.3821) to appoint a State Monitor to the East Ramapo School District. The monitor will be on the ground and in the district to oversee their financial operations for the next 5 years. The monitor will also:

- ✓ Develop a five-year plan, with public input, for the district to achieve fiscal stability and academic excellence, with benchmarks to measure progress
- ✓ Issue annual reports and quarterly updates
- ✓ Attend all board meetings, including executive session
- ✓ Be empowered to override board actions if they are in violation of the five-year plan or not acting in the best interest of the students
- ✓ At the conclusion of their appointment, the monitor will issue a final report with long-term recommendations

Ken is also committed to ensuring adequate funding for East Ramapo.

He is dedicated to providing additional funds for the district through a change in the school aid formula.

Moving Forward

The goal of this legislation is to fix the crisis in the East Ramapo School District. The monitor will be another set of eyes in the district, working in the best interest of the students to provide the quality education they deserve. The Monitor will help East Ramapo get back on track, and work on long-term solutions for the district.



The oversight bill can be found on the NYS Assembly website at <http://assembly.state.ny.us/> under the “Bill Search” link when you type in A.5355 or S.3821.

Hank Greenberg’s report can also be accessed online at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/docs/east-ramapo-fiscal-monitor-presentation.pdf>

Contact my office with any questions or if you would like a copy of the legislation at (845) 634-9791 or at zebrowskik@nysa.us.