

# Attorney: School rolls fixed

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The Hempstead school district will meet today's deadline to alert state education officials their enrollment problems have been fixed, an attorney for the district said yesterday.

Troubles with registration forced dozens of immigrant students to miss the start of the school year and spurred a state-wide crackdown on districts facing similar enrollment problems.

The state gave the district until the end of business today to send affidavits signed by Hempstead's school board president and superintendent saying enrollment procedures are being conducted lawfully.

Monte Malik Chandler, an attorney for the district, said the administrators — board president Lamont Johnson and Superintendent Susan Johnson, no relation — will comply.

The Hempstead district will create a phone hotline for students and parents having trouble enrolling. "If there is an issue with any of our children, they can call and we will respond within a reasonable amount of time," he said. The hotline will likely be set up within a month.

The district will also streamline the enrollment process and make it more time-sensitive, Chandler said.

Chandler said Hempstead will soon join 20 school districts across New York that have signed pacts with the state attorney general's office improving enrollment procedures. He did not know when the district will sign.

Hempstead faced criticism last fall for failing to enroll dozens of immigrant children recently arrived in the district. Parents and activists said more than 30 children — some unaccompanied minors who came from Central America — were turned away from Hempstead schools after classes started in September.

The district's troubles led to demands for corrective actions in school systems statewide by the attorney general's office and state Education Department. Hempstead administrators have said the district was overwhelmed by new students. Hempstead served 6,705 students in the 2013-14 school year, state records show.