U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Great Lakes Region
2300 E. Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018

NOV 17 2009

Ms. Sally Pryor, Ed. D.
Superintendent, School District 64
164 South Prospect Avenue
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068

Dear Ms. Pryor:

Thank you for your letter of November 4, 2009 addressed to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Your letter expressed concerns about the eligibility for sound insulation of Carpenter Elementary School located in Park Ridge.

The FAA has partnered with the City of Chicago and the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) to provide Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) funding for many years. Over more than 15 years, we have been pleased and proud to be able to provide more than $275 million in AIP and PFC funds for school sound insulation.

Nationally, the FAA does not usually consider AIP funding for mitigation below the average day-night sound level (DNL) of 65 decibels (dB). However, the noise program does allow locally established standards of noncompatibility below 65 DNL. In February 2005, the ONCC, with the support of the City of Chicago, passed a resolution that supports the use of the 60 DNL noise contour as a locally established standard of noncompatibility for schools. Carpenter Elementary School was added to the eligibility list at that time based on the standard and the then- applicable 2000 O'Hare noise contours.

Unfortunately, due to strong national competition for noise mitigation funding, Carpenter Elementary School did not receive funding.

With the approval of the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) Environmental Impact Statement, the 2000 contours are no longer valid. The OMP Build-Out noise contour now applies. Carpenter Elementary School is deemed ineligible for sound insulation based on the new contour. It falls below the locally established noise standard of the 60 DNL. The eligibility rules have not changed; the applicable contours have.

These rules governing eligibility are uniform nationally. As I am sure you can appreciate, in the interest of fairness to other communities in Illinois and throughout the nation, the FAA cannot waive eligibility or policies.

As a condition of the OMP Environmental Impact Statement, the City has committed to conduct new noise testing and prepare maps, after the airport modernization is completed. Those maps will reflect the current conditions after completion. The FAA is prepared to work

with the City and the ONCC to evaluate the eligibility for any schools that would be potentially eligible at that time.

I appreciate you contacting me about this important issue. If we can help you further, please contact Ms. Lindsay Butler, Regional Environmental Specialist and School Sound Insulation Program Manager, at (847) 294-7723.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
JACK DELANEY

Jack Delaney
Assistant Manager
Chicago Airports District Office

cc: Sen. Richard Durbin
Rep. Jan Schakowsky
Rep. Peter Roskam
Mayor David F. Schmidt
Ald. Don Bach
ONCC