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**To:** Superintendents of School Districts  
**From:** Ira Schwartz  
**Subject:** Accountability System for Schools with Alternative Cohorts

Section 100.18(j)(2)(iv) of Commissioner's Regulations allows schools in which more than half the students enrolled have previously been enrolled in another high school or in which more than half the enrollment is receiving special education services to voluntarily submit the performance of an alternative high school cohort. The alternative cohort in any given year shall consist of those students enrolled in the high school on the first Wednesday of October three years previously who were still enrolled in the school on the first Wednesday of October two years previously. For Alternate Cohort Schools, the "number of students required to take courses" is the number of students enrolled on BEDS day in an ELA or math course required for graduation, excluding students who:

- transferred to another school or enroll in an approved GED program as of last day of the school year and remain enrolled or received a GED;
- have left the country;
- became incarcerated and continue to receive instruction that leads to a high school diploma;
- are deceased.

This memo is to inform you that Local Educational Agencies (LEA) with schools that wish to participate in the 2010 alternative cohort should contact the State Education Department (SED) for approval to use the alternative cohort performance along with the regular cohort for accountability purposes. For the alternate cohort AYP results to be considered, the school needs to make alternate cohort AYP for all groups in both ELA and Math.

### Performance Levels for Common Core Regents Exams

In May 2014, State Education Department introduced new proficiency levels (Levels 1 to 5) for the Common Core Regents Exams; a memo with more details on the proficiency levels is available at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/commoncore/updateccregentsexams-514.pdf>. For those students who take the old Regents Exam (based on the 2005 Learning Standards) in addition to the new Common Core Regents Exam, the higher of the two scores will be used for accountability purposes. Therefore, schools submitting Regents data should determine the proficiency levels depending on whether the student took only the Common Core Regents Exam (Levels 1 to 5), or, in addition took the old Regents Exam (Levels 1 to 4). The table and the examples below illustrate how the performance levels under the old and the Common Core Regents Exams should be reported for alternative cohort accountability purposes.

Common Core Regents Exam				Old Regents Exam (2005 Learning Standards)			
Regents Scores for ELA	Regents Scores for Algebra I	Performance Levels	Credit	Regents Scores for ELA	Regents Scores for Math	Performance Levels	Credit
85 – 100	85 – 100	Level 5	Full	90 – 100	90 – 100	Level 4	Full
79 – 84	74 – 84	Level 4	Full	75 – 89	80 – 89	Level 3	Full
65 – 78	65 – 73	Level 3	Partial	65 – 74	65 – 79	Level 2	Partial
55 – 64	55 – 64	Level 2	None	55 – 64	55 – 64	Level 1	None
0 – 54	0 – 54	Level 1	None	0 – 64	0 – 64	Level 1	None

*Example 1:* Student A gets a Level 3 on the Common Core Regents Math (CC Math) and a Level 2 on the old Regents Math exam. Since Level 3 on CC Math and Level 2 on old Math give the same partial credit to the school, report student A as Level 2.

*Example 2:* Student B gets a Level 3 on the CC Math and a Level 3 on the old Math exam. Since Level 3 on old Math gives full credit and Level 3 on CC Math gives partial credit, report student B as Level 3. The score that earns the school the most credit will be used.

*Example 3:* Student C gets a Level 3 on the CC Math and does not take the old Math exam. Since Level 3 on CC Math gives partial credit, report student C as Level 2.

The alternate cohort data submission template is available on the following SED website: [http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/APA/Forms/Forms\\_home.html](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/APA/Forms/Forms_home.html). The data submission deadline is Monday, September 15, 2014. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Lisa Long at (718) 722-4553 or e-mail [selfassessment@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:selfassessment@mail.nysed.gov). We look forward to continuing to work with you in developing appropriate measures that hold districts and schools accountable for educational results.

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