



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234
Office of P-12

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To: District Superintendents, Superintendents of Public Schools

From: Ira Schwartz, Assistant Commissioner 

Date: August 2014

Subject: Release of Accountability Determinations Based on 2012–13 School Year Results

The purpose of this memo is to provide information regarding the release of accountability determinations based on the 2012-13 New York State Accountability Report. This memo will also specify the next steps that are required of Focus Districts with Local Assistance Plan (LAP), Focus, and/or Priority Schools, and for Districts in Good Standing with newly identified LAP Schools.

On August 14, 2014, the Department will post final accountability designation data based on 2012-13 school year assessment results, at:
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/ESEADesignations.html>.

The list containing the preliminary accountability statuses of all the schools in your district, including Focus and Priority Schools, LAP, and Reward Schools was posted to the IRS portal at <http://portal.nysed.gov/portal/page/pref/PortalApp> for your review prior to the public release. The 2012-13 assessment data used to determine the accountability statuses of schools and districts is available in the New York State Report Card at: <https://reportcards.nysed.gov/>. For your reference, the criteria for identification of Priority Schools, Focus Districts, Focus Schools, LAP and Reward Schools can be found at:
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/ESEAMaterials.html>.

If your district appealed a preliminary accountability designation, your superintendent has been notified by email regarding the result of your appeal.

Next Steps for Focus Districts with LAP Schools, Focus Schools, and/or Priority Schools

As I previously communicated in my July 2014 memo to Focus Districts, Commissioner's Regulations require that each Focus District use the results of a diagnostic tool of quality indicators to inform the creation of a District Comprehensive Improvement Plan (DCIP). Additionally, Commissioner's Regulations require that each Priority and Focus School use the results of a diagnostic tool to inform development of the School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP). Each Priority or Focus School was required during the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years to have participated either in an Integrated Intervention Team (IIT) School Review, a

District-led Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness (DTSDE) Review, or a School Review focused on DTSDE Tenet 3 with District Oversight. The results of these reviews must have informed the development of the 2014-15 school year SCEP. If districts have not received their official IIT reports, the DCIP and SCEPs should be developed using the data that is most readily available to the district and schools. Additional information on the completion of the DCIP and SCEPs can be accessed by viewing the archived webinars located at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/Webinars.html>.

DCIPs and SCEPs must:

- Specifically address the areas of need identified through the use of the diagnostic tool of quality indicators (e.g., the IIT School Review, the district-led DTSDE Review, or the School Review focused on DTSDE Tenet 3).
- Be updated annually as approved by the Board of Education (or in New York City, the Chancellor or her designee) and implemented no later than the first day of regular student attendance.
- Be developed in consultation with parents, school staff, and others pursuant to Commissioner's Regulations Part 100.11.
- Include an analysis of achievement of prior year goals.
- Be made widely available through public means, such as posting on the Internet, and distribution through public agencies.

DCIPs and SCEPs for the 2014-15 school year were due to the Department on July 31, 2014. If your district has not yet submitted either a DCIP or SCEP, please contact Erica Meaker at 518-473-0295 or via e-mail at conappta@mail.nysed.gov.

All Focus and Priority Schools will continue to receive either a NYSED-led IIT review, a District-led DTSDE Review or a School Review with District Oversight for the 2014-2015 school year. The schedule of 2014-2015 IIT Reviews was distributed to Superintendents in June 2014. All other Focus and Priority Schools, including those who have been newly identified to replace Focus Schools that were eligible for replacement, are expected to participate in a District-led DTSDE reviews or School Reviews with District Oversight during the 2014-15 school year. Districts are required to submit their DTSDE reviews to SED by June 30, 2015. District personnel and Outside Educational Experts contracted by the district to participate in DTSDE reviews are expected to participate in the September 22-23, 2014 DTSDE Institute that will take place in Albany, New York. Registrations for the Institute are being accepted through August 22, 2014. For more information, please visit: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/diagnostic-tool-institute/registration.html>

In accordance with Commissioner's Regulations, a Focus District with LAP Schools is required to work with the identified school(s) to complete the applicable sections of the Self-Review Document and Report Template and incorporate the supports and interventions for the identified school(s) into its DCIP. The Diagnostic Self-Review Document can be found online at the following website: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/ESEAMaterials.html>. Within the DCIP, the district will be required to clearly identify those supports and interventions that are to be implemented in the identified LAP Schools. These supports and interventions do not count towards satisfying the improvement set-aside or parent engagement set-aside requirements.

According to Commissioner's Regulations, once a school is identified as Focus or Priority, the district must inform parents of the school's designation. Additionally, all Title I schools designated as Priority or Focus Schools, except for public charter schools, will be required to offer Public School Choice (PSC). Districts must provide all enrolled students in these schools with the option to transfer to another public school within the district that is not a Priority or Focus School. In addition, parents must be notified of the PSC option no later than 14 days before the start of the 2014-15 school year.

Priority Schools are required to implement a whole school reform model no later than the 2014-15 school year. Attachment A contains information regarding the requirements for the whole school reform models. Focus Districts must complete the Priority School Implementation Status Form (found at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/ESEAMaterials.html>) specifying what intervention model has been or will be implemented in each Priority School during the 2012-13, 2013-14 or 2014-15 school year. Attachment B must be returned to SED no later than October 3, 2014. To verify the Priority School list and obtain details pertaining to Priority School performance in your district, please visit the "SecondYearPerformancePrioritySchools.xls" file in your district's portal.

Next Steps for Districts in Good Standing with LAP Schools

In accordance with Commissioner's Regulations, a district in Good Standing that has LAP Schools will be required to work with the identified school(s) to complete the Diagnostic Self-Review Document and Report Template for each identified LAP School. SED will be posting an informational pre-recorded webinar regarding the completion of the Diagnostic Self-Review Document to the website: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/Webinars.html>.

The Diagnostic Self-Review Document and Report Template must be approved by the local board of education (or the Chancellor in New York City) for the district and posted to the district's website by November 21, 2014. The Diagnostic Self-Review Document and Report Template can be found online at the following website: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/ESEAMaterials.html>.

Please note that once approved by SED, any significant modification of an approved plan requires the prior approval of the Commissioner.

Questions concerning the information contained in this memo should be directed to: accountinfo@mail.nysed.gov.

cc: John B. King, Jr.
Cosimo Tangorra, Jr.
Stephen Earley
Roberto Reyes
Kathleen Moorhead
Bill Clarke
Lisa Long

ATTACHMENT A

Requirements for a Whole School Reform Model

A whole school reform model means the Turnaround Model, Restart Model, Transformation Model, or Closure Model funded by a 1003(g) School Improvement Grant, or a three year plan that provides for the redesign of a school by implementation of all of the following turnaround elements:

- Providing strong leadership by:
 - reviewing the performance of the current principal;
 - either replacing the principal if such a change is necessary to ensure strong and effective leadership, or demonstrating to the Commissioner that the current principal has a track record in improving achievement and has the ability to lead the turnaround effort; and
 - providing the principal with operational flexibility in the areas of scheduling, staff, curricula, and budget.
- Ensuring that teachers are able to improve instruction by:
 - reviewing the quality of all staff and retaining only those who have the ability to be successful in the turnaround effort;
 - preventing ineffective teachers from transferring to these schools; and
 - providing job-embedded, ongoing professional development informed by the teacher evaluation and support systems and tied to teacher and student needs.
- Redesigning the school day, week, or year to include additional time for student learning and teacher collaboration, provided that such redesigning does not conflict with any applicable collective bargaining agreement.
- Strengthening the school's instructional program based on student needs and ensuring that the instructional program is research-based, rigorous, and aligned with Common Core Learning Standards.
- Using data to inform instruction and for continual improvement, including the provision of time for collaboration on the use of data.
- Establishing a school environment that improves school safety and discipline, and addressing other non-academic factors that have an impact on student achievement, such as students' social, emotional, and health needs.
- Providing ongoing mechanisms for family and community engagement.

ATTACHMENT B

Instructions for Completing the Priority School Implementation Status Form

This form must be completed and certified by the Superintendent (or Chancellor in New York City). It must be submitted via e-mail to accountinfo@mail.nysed.gov by Friday, October 3, 2014. The form can also be downloaded at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/ESEAMaterials.html>. (Note: This form should **not** be used to appeal the status of a Priority School. Please use the *Appeal Form for Second Year Progress or Focus School Substitution List* that can be downloaded at the website: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/ESEAMaterials.html> for that purpose.)

A Focus District with one or more Priority Schools must submit the status of each Priority School as it relates to implementation of a whole school reform model. A school implementing a Transformation, Turnaround or Restart Model pursuant to a 1003(g) School Improvement Grant (SIG) or a School Innovation Fund (SIF) Grant or Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) aligned with the USDE's Turnaround Principles will be deemed to be implementing a whole school reform model.

Completing the Priority School Implementation Status Form

1. In the designated fields, provide the name and BEDS Code of each identified Priority School in the district.
2. For each Priority School, identify by year of implementation in the appropriate column the intervention model for which the school will implement, for each designated Priority School.
3. Any school that was identified as a persistently lowest achieving (PLA) school in the 2011-12 school year and then later identified as a Priority School for the 2012-13 school year, must indicate the approved intervention model that it began implementing in the 2012-13 school year.
4. All of the Priority Schools in the district must have started to implement or be in the process of implementing a whole school reform model beginning no later than the 2014-15 school year.
5. This form must be completed even if the district has appealed/ has plans to appeal the second year performance calculation of the district or any school in the district.
6. The Superintendent (or Chancellor in New York City) must certify the document and submit it via e-mail to accountinfo@mail.nysed.gov by October 3, 2014.

Please open the file "SecondYearPerformancePrioritySchools.xls" in the Information Reporting Services (IRS) portal at <http://portal.nysed.gov/portal/page/pref/PortalApp>, and review the list before submitting this form.



Priority School Implementation Status Form

District Name:			
District BEDS Code:			
Completed By:	Name/Title	Phone Number	Email Address

Please list the Priority Schools in your district and indicate the intervention model and which year the district had begun or will begin to implement the School Improvement Grant (SIG) plan in each school. Instructions to complete the form are enclosed. To verify the list and obtain details pertaining to Priority Schools in your district, please visit the "SecondYearPerformancePrioritySchools.xls" file in your district's portal. Please complete the "Appeal Form for Second Year Progress or Focus School Substitution List" to appeal the progress status of a school.

All Priority Schools						
School Name	BEDS Code	Model and Year of Implementation				
		Please select the intervention model by indicating the year of implementation. If the school is implementing a SIF model, please note in the school name column, along with the year of implementation.				
		Turnaround	Transformation	Restart	Closure	
<i>Sample ABC School</i>	<i>123456789012</i>		<i>2013-14</i>			
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						
9.						
10.						

I certify that the schools listed above are Priority Schools. I understand that the New York State Education Department reserves the right to modify the model selected and the year of implementation, if it was not previously approved. I certify that the district will implement all State and Federal requirements as applicable to Priority Schools.

Superintendent's Name:			
Superintendent's Signature		Date:	