



**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, and Principals of Charter Schools

**From:** Ira Schwartz, Assistant Commissioner *Ira Schwartz*

**Date:** August 2015

**Subject:** Release of Accountability Determinations Based on 2013–14 School Year Results

The purpose of this memo is to provide information regarding the release of accountability determinations based on the 2013-14 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 19, 2015, the New York State Education Department (NYSED or “the Department”) will post the final accountability designation data for Priority Schools, Focus Districts, Focus Schools, Local Assistance Plan (LAP) Schools and Reward Schools based on the 2013-14 school year assessment results at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/ESEADesignations.html>.

The list containing the preliminary accountability status of all the schools in your district, including Focus and Priority Schools, LAP, and Reward Schools was posted to the Information Reporting Services (IRS) portal at <http://portal.nysed.gov/portal/page/pref/PortalApp> for your review prior to the public release. The 2013-14 assessment data used to determine the accountability status 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, Local Assistance Plan Schools 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 e-mail 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 June 2015 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). 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 to 2014-15 school years, to participate annually in either 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 inform the development of the 2015-16 school year SCEP. Districts should not wait for official Integration Intervention Team reports when developing their DCIP and SCEPs. Plans should be developed using the data that is most readily available to the district and schools. The June 2015 memo is posted online at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/documents/DataReleaseMemo2015-16.pdf>. Additional information on the completion of the DCIP and SCEPs can be accessed online at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/fdip/home.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 (in New York City the Chancellor or her designee) and implemented no later than the first day of school when students are in 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 or distribution through public agencies.

DCIPs and SCEPs for the 2015-16 school year were due to the Department by **Friday, July 31, 2015**. 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 [fdip@nysed.gov](mailto:fdip@nysed.gov) to receive further instructions. Additional information on the completion of the DCIP and SCEPs may be accessed online at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/fdip/home.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 2015-16 school year.

A Priority School that is removed from status must continue to implement its whole school reform model through the third year of implementation. For example, a Priority School that began implementation of a 1003(g) School Improvement Grant model, School Innovation Fund Grant model or another whole school reform model in the 2014-15 school year must continue to implement the model through the 2016-17 school year. A school that began implementation in the 2013-14 school year must continue implementation through the 2015-16 school year. Title I schools that are removed from Focus and Priority Status are eligible to continue to receive 1003(a) grants.

### **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. NYSED 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 **Friday, November 20, 2015**. 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 the Department, 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@nysed.gov](mailto:accountinfo@nysed.gov).

cc: MaryEllen Elia  
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