



Ira Schwartz, Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Accountability  
55 Hanson Place, Room 400  
Brooklyn, New York 11217  
Tel: (718) 722-2796 / Fax: (718) 722-4559

September 28, 2015

Dear:

On September 11, 2015, the New York State Education Department (NYSED or “the Department”) provided all districts that have Persistently Struggling and Struggling schools with the Demonstrable Improvement (DI) indicators that are available for selection. This letter is to inform you of the revisions made to data for two of the indicators, and the special option available to schools with a 2014-15 Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness (DTSDE) Tenet at the *Developing* level. This letter also provides clarification on the Student Suspension Rate (Out of school) indicator.

**Revised: 2012 Total Cohort Passing Math Regents and 2011 Total Cohort Passing ELA Regents**

In response to questions received, we have found that the baselines, goals and progress targets reported for the “2012 Total Cohort Passing Math Regents” and “2011 Total Cohort Passing ELA Regents” indicators were incorrect. We have made the necessary updates and have created a revised Demonstrable Improvement indicators data file, which is being sent to your attention along with this letter. For example, the revised “2012 Total Cohort Passing Math Regents” data will align with the “L2RPT SIRS-202 Total Cohort Assessment Report,” which is available to districts. Please share the revised Demonstrable Improvement indicators data file with your staff members involved in the DI indicator selection process.

On September 18, 2015, the Department hosted a webinar entitled “Selecting Demonstrable Improvement Indicators” to demonstrate how the DI indicators must be selected. A recording of the webinar is posted to the School Receivership website located at: <http://p12.nysed.gov/accountability/de/SchoolReceivership.html>. Please share this link with your staff members involved in the DI indicator selection process. Detailed steps on how to select indicators are available in my letter dated September 11, 2015. The letter is available for review on the NYSED website at: <http://p12.nysed.gov/accountability/de/SchoolReceivership.html>.

**Update: DTSDE Tenet Indicator Selection Option**

Currently schools are not eligible to select a Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness (DTSDE) Tenet indicator, if their baseline is *Developing* or *Effective*. However, in response to requests made by various districts, the Department will allow schools to select a DTSDE Tenet indicator even if the school’s baseline is at the *Developing* level. Schools selecting this option will be required to meet the revised goals of *Developing* in 2015-16, *Effective* in 2016-17 and *Effective* in 2017-18. There is no change in goals for schools whose

DTSDE Tenet indicator baseline is *Ineffective*. They will be required to meet the *Developing* (2015-16), *Developing* (2016-17), and *Effective* (2017-18) goals respectively.

Please note that the data file that accompanies this letter has been updated to reflect this change.

### **Student Suspension Rate (Out of School) Indicator**

In the spreadsheet provided to you, one of the indicators is listed as “Student Suspension Rate – Long Term (Out of School).” In response to questions, we have removed the words “Long Term,” so as not to imply that this indicator refers only to superintendent suspensions of five or more days. The indicator is actually computed as follows:

Student Suspension rate is determined by dividing the number of students who were suspended from school (not including in-school suspensions) for one full day or longer anytime during the school year by the Basic Educational Data System (BEDS) day enrollments for that school year. A student is counted only once, regardless of whether the student was suspended one or more times during the school year.

This clarification does not affect the baselines, progress targets, or goals that were provided to you in the original spreadsheet. The aforementioned definition and Student Suspension Rate (Out of School) data can be found at: <https://reportcards.nysed.gov/>.

### **Next Steps**

The deadline to submit the selected DI indicators along with any district proposed local indicator(s)/climate survey to the Department has been changed to **Friday, October 9, 2015**. If districts need additional time to submit the indicators because of these revisions, please e-mail the request to [receivership@nysed.gov](mailto:receivership@nysed.gov). In October 2015, the Department plans to release a data dictionary that will define the various DI indicators. The Department will also be sharing additional guidance on demonstrating attainment of the goals and/or progress targets for certain non-numeric indicators, such as implementation of the Community School model.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the DI process, please e-mail them to [receivership@nysed.gov](mailto:receivership@nysed.gov). We wish you great success during the current school year and beyond.

Sincerely,

Ira Schwartz

cc: Stephen Earley  
Maxine Meadows-Shuford  
Lisa Long