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

Ira Schwartz, Assistant Commissioner

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

July 2, 2015

Dear Key Stakeholder:

I am writing to invite you to participate in a conference for districts with Persistently Struggling and Struggling Schools to be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2015 and Thursday, July 23, 2015 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany, NY 12242. As a Key Stakeholder who supports these schools we are requesting your participation.

The purpose of this conference is to provide guidance to the field on how to implement the Receivership program as outlined in Commissioner's Regulation §100.19, which the Board of Regents approved, as an emergency action, at its June 2015 meeting (see: http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/meetings/Revised%20Receivership%20100.19_0.pdf.) Please review the attached draft agenda in preparation for this very important conference.

Day one of the conference will convene from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and will include sessions regarding the implementation of Commissioner's Regulation §100.19, development of the required Community Engagement Plan, an overview of the Metrics that will be utilized to determine Demonstrable Improvement, and the permissible activities for the $75 million School Turnaround Grant Program for which Persistently Struggling Schools are eligible to apply. Day two will convene from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will include presentations by Community Schools experts and School Turnaround experts.

We are able to accommodate *one representative per organization*. In order to confirm your attendance at the Wednesday, July 22, 2015 and Thursday, July 23, 2015 conference, we ask that the representative who will attend the School Receivership conference on behalf of your organization register beginning Wednesday, July 2, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. and no later than Monday, July 13, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. by visiting: http://nysed.fluidreview.com. After establishing a new account or logging into an existing user account, please use access code **RC6** to begin the process of completing the registration form. Following confirmation of your attendance, you will receive the agenda for the conference.

For participants needing to reserve lodging on July 21st and 22nd, room blocks will be available at the state rate of $111.00 per night at the hotels listed below.   Please note cut off dates for reservations at each hotel.

Name of Hotel	# Rooms in Block/Night	Cut Off Date	Room Block Code	Hotel Contact #
74 State Street Hotel (Downtown Albany)	30	July 7	NYSED	(518) 434-7410
Desmond Hotel & Conference Center 660 Albany Shaker Road	75	July 10	NYSED 12OVX	(518) 869-8100
Holiday Inn Turf 216 Wolf Road	10	July 7	NYSED ED7	(518) 458-7250
Hotel Indigo 254 Wolf Road	20	July 10	NYSED	(518) 869-9100

Please note that breakfast will not be available on the first day. However, a light breakfast will be provided on the second day, as well as refreshments during morning and afternoon breaks. Participants will be on their own for lunch and dinner each day. Information about food vendors located in the Concourse adjacent to the Convention Center will be available at the Registration Table.

Lastly, we encourage you to e-mail any questions or recommendations that you may have regarding School Receivership, so that we can consider them in preparing for the conference. If you have any questions regarding the conference, please direct them to: receivership@nysed.gov.

We are committed to working with you to implement this new initiative in the way that will best help you to improve academic performance in Struggling and Persistently Struggling Schools. We look forward to your participation in this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Ira Schwartz

Attachment