



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

To: Superintendents of Focus Districts, District Superintendents, and Outside Educational Experts (OEEs)

From: Ira Schwartz

Subject: Update on Role of Outside Educational Experts

Date: September 13, 2013

This is a follow up to my memo of June 13, 2013, informing you that the New York State Education Department (NYSED) was seeking proposals from vendors to conduct NYSED-led Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness (DTSDE) visits during the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years. Under the terms of the Request For Proposals (RFP), the selected vendor's reviewers will serve as OEEs for district and school-level NYSED-led Integrated Intervention Team (IIT) visits and will assume primary responsibility for writing DTSDE reports. The memo is intended to clarify the role of OEEs on NYSED-led IIT visits and on district led-DTSDE visits and the use of 1003(a) School Improvement Grants to pay for OEE activities in Title I schools.

Role of OEE on NYSED-led IIT Visits:

- SED plans to enter into a contract that will result in SED selected reviewers serving as OEEs for NYSED-led IIT Review visits. These individuals will also assume responsibility for writing the DTSDE reports.
- Districts will no longer be required to select and pay for an OEE to participate in a NYSED-led IIT visit.
- Districts have the option of having a district-selected OEE assigned as an additional reviewer on any NYSED-led IIT visit conducted in 2013-14.
- To receive a 1003(a) School Improvement Grant, a district is no longer required to have submitted an application for an OEE to participate in each visit that will be conducted by an NYSED-led IIT during the 2013-14 school year.

Role of OEE on District-led DTSDE Visits:

- Districts are encouraged to continue to identify and utilize OEEs to assist in conducting district-led DTSDE visits.
- District may also use OEEs to assist with development and implementation of School Comprehensive Education Plans (SCEP) and District Comprehensive Improvement Plans (DCIP).

OEEs and 1003(a) Title I Funds:

- Districts may continue to use their 1003(a) funds to support OEE activities in Title I schools.
- These expenditures will continue to be an approved activity to meet the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver set-aside requirements for Focus Districts.
- To qualify as an approved set-aside activity, OEEs who are employed by districts using 1003(a) funds to participate in either SED-led IIT visits or on District-led DTSDE visits must participate in all SED mandated training, and these OEE's must be approved by SED.
- To have an OEE approved by SED, districts must complete the attached application and submit it with an updated resume to: DTSDereviews@mail.nysed.gov no later than October 4, 2013. The form must be completed even if the person served as an OEE during the 2012-2013 school year.

Later this fall, NYSED will provide districts with further information regarding the awarding of this RFP and its implications for DTSDE implementation.

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

Enclosure

c: Stephen Earley
Sandra Herndon
Doris Hill-Wyley