



May 4, 2010

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to inform you that at 4 pm on **May 4, 2010**, the 2009–10 *Grades 3–8 Accountability Verification Reports* (3–8 AVRs) will be available on nySTART. In addition, you can access these reports through the Level 2 reporting environment, using the web links provided by your regional Level 1 data center.

3–8 AVR Data Verification

The 3–8 AVRs allow districts and schools to review the data used to determine participation rates and performance indices for 2009–10 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and 2010–11 accountability status. The 3–8 AVRs list all students used for determining AYP and, based on their grade/age and program services, indicate the assessment on which students should be tested to fulfill accountability requirements.

Assessment data in these reports are currently incomplete, as the majority of the accountability assessments have not yet been administered, scored, or reported to the Student Information Repository System (SIRS). In both the nySTART and Level 2 reports, performance enrollment counts will show as zeros until the assessment results are available.

However, the list of students used to determine accountability participation rates may be accessed in the nySTART student detail reports (Report C) by using the Participation Rate Enroll links in the district (Report A) and school/subgroup (Report B) reports. The list of students used to determine accountability participation rates may be accessed in the Level 2 report through the Tested and Not Tested links.

A guide for understanding information contained in and navigating through the nySTART 3–8 AVRs is available at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/nystart/reportguides.html>.

What You Can Do Now

Districts and schools are strongly encourage to review data currently available in the student detail reports to ensure that all students are correctly identified for accountability determinations, and that appropriate accountability assessments are administered, scored, and reported on time for these students. In addition, please verify that all students are coded with the correct grade, enrollment location, and accountability subgroup designations (e.g., race/ethnicity, limited English proficient (LEP), economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities).

Districts and schools should continue to review these reports as additional data become available. If you discover that data for listed students are incorrect, please make the necessary changes in your local student management systems and load the revised data into the SIRS. The nySTART and Level 2 Reports will be updated every Tuesday morning until the close of the 2009–10 verification window.

Availability of Preliminary Data:

- **May 4, 2010:** Students enrolled during the NYSTP English language arts (ELA) administration window (used for ELA participation rate determinations).
- **May 4, 2010:** Students enrolled during the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) administration window (used for ELA, mathematics, and science participation rate determinations for eligible and properly coded students with disabilities).
- **May 4, 2010:** Valid scores for grade 8 (or age equivalent) students for the NYSTP in science taken when in grade 7 and Regents science examinations taken in lieu of the NYSTP in science if used for science accountability assessment (used for science participation rate determinations).
- **May 11, 2010:** Students enrolled during the NYSTP mathematics administration window (used for mathematics participation rate determinations).
- **May 18, 2010:** Students enrolled during the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) administration window (used for ELA participation rate determinations for eligible and properly coded LEP students).
- **June 8, 2010:** Students enrolled during the NYSTP science administration window (used for science participation rate determinations).

If you have questions about this information, please contact the Office of Information and Reporting Services by phone (518-474-7965) or e-mail (dataquest@mail.nysed.gov). You may also contact your Regional Information Center or Big 5 Data Coordinator if you have questions about data contained in the SIRS. Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of all the students of our State.

Alan Ray
Assistant Commissioner
P-16 Policy and Strategic Planning