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Subject: Release of Grades 3–8 ELA and Math Scores, Reporting and Certification
Deadline, and Availability of Accountability Status Determinations and preAORs

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to inform you of the availability of the 2011–12 New York State Testing Program (NYSTP) Grades 3–8 English language arts (ELA) and mathematics scores, the revised deadline for reporting and certifying data in the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) for the 2011–12 school year, and the 2011-12 accountability statuses and availability of the full 2011-12 *Preview Accountability and Overview Reports* (preAORs).

NYSTP 3–8 ELA and Mathematics Scores Availability

Scores for the 2011–12 NYSTP 3–8 ELA and mathematics assessments will be available to schools and districts in the Verification Reports in the Level 2 Reporting (L2RPT) environment (see <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/level2reports/home.html>) and on nySTART (www.nySTART.gov) on **July 17, 2012**. Data on these assessments will be released publicly by the Commissioner in the early afternoon on the same day. ***School and district aggregated results are embargoed until the Commissioner's public release. Data under embargo cannot be discussed at public meetings or released to the public or the media.***

SIRS Reporting Deadline

As mentioned in our June 22 memo, available at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/News/2011-12ReportingDeadline.pdf>, the deadline for reporting data in Level 2 of SIRS for the 2011-12 school year is now **August 24, 2012¹**. If you can load and certify your data earlier than this deadline, we encourage you to do so. Data in Level 2 of SIRS as 11:59 p.m. on August 24, 2012 will be used for the following purposes:

- To make accountability status determinations for the 2013-14 school year
- To be published in the 2011-12 New York State Report Cards
- Other State and federal reporting purposes

Your local Level 1 data center may establish a due date for submitting data that is earlier than the State deadline of August 24th to allow sufficient time to load the data into Level 2 by August 24, 2012. For a list of Level 1 data center contacts, see <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/nystart/tips.html#contax>.

¹ Additional information for NYCDOE and charter schools can be found at <http://intranet.nycboe.net/Accountability/SchoolPerformance/nclb/data/>

Districts and schools are encouraged to review their verification reports in the Level 2 Reporting (L2RPT) environment (see <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/level2reports/home.html>) in advance of this deadline to ensure that all students for whom the district or school is responsible are reported in SIRS with accurate demographic, program services, enrollment, special education snapshot, special education events and, when available, assessment and outcome data. User accounts for the Level 2 reporting environment are created and managed through the State Education Department's Delegated Account System (SEDDAS) available at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/seddas/seddashome.html>. Specific details on how to proceed with the authorization of accounts are provided by your Level 1 data center.

Any necessary changes must be made to the source data contained in the local student management system and loaded to Level 1 / Level 2 of the SIRS. Data will be refreshed weekly in Level 2 of the SIRS until August 24, the final reporting deadline. Districts should work with their Level 1 data center to determine the data loading schedules in place prior to the statewide certification deadline for 2011–12 school year data.

Certification of SIRS Data

Superintendents must certify data in SIRS as shown in the L2RPT verification reports by submitting a completed 2011–12 Statement of Certification of Verification Report(s) form (available at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/nystart/certification.html>) to their Regional Information Center (RIC) Director or Big 5 City School District Data Coordinator by **August 31, 2012**. Districts are strongly encouraged to retain copies of verification reports based on data in the SIRS on August 24 for record keeping purposes. NYCDOE schools will receive additional communication regarding steps for certification.

Accountability Status Determinations and preAORs

In May 2012, the United States Department of Education (USDE) approved New York State's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver, which allows New York to make modifications to its system of identifying schools and districts under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act. A summary of the provisions of New York's waiver request is available in a memorandum from Assistant Commissioner Ira Schwartz at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/esea-waiver/field-memo.pdf>.

Status identifications for the 2012–13 school year will be made using revised accountability rules as applied to 2010–11 data. A memorandum informing districts of their status, the status of their schools, and how to access and understand the data used to make these determinations is forthcoming from Assistant Commissioner Ira Schwartz and will be available at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/memos.html>. Accountability status appeals must be made to the Office of Accountability in accordance with the directions provided in Assistant Commissioner Schwartz's memorandum. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations used to make these identifications are available in the 2010–11 Accountability and Overview Reports (AORs) at <https://reportcards.nysed.gov/>. Other data used to make these identifications will be available shortly on the IRS Portal. Information about accessing the IRS Portal is available at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/irs-portal/>.

Status identifications for the 2013–14 school year will be made using revised accountability rules as applied to 2011–12 data. Because the waiver was granted late in the school year, Preview Accountability and Overview Reports (preAORs) showing AYP and other outcomes will not be available to districts before the August 24, 2012 reporting deadline. The Department is developing a New York State Accountability Report, which will show these data, for release at a later date.

On behalf of the Commissioner and Department staff, I want to express our appreciation to all those who work so diligently to report, collect, and verify these data. We continue to make concerted efforts to improve our data collection and reporting systems so that we can minimize the effort required while ensuring data accuracy and integrity. Your ongoing feedback assists us greatly in these efforts.

If you have questions about SIRS data or data verification, please contact the Office of Information and Reporting Services by phone (518-474-7965) or email (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.

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