



Office of P-12 Education

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Room 874 EBA

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To: 2011-12 Contract for Excellence Superintendents
New York City Schools Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott

Date: August 15, 2011

From: Charles A. Szuberla

Subject: Contracts for Excellence (C4E) 2011-12 Information

The State budget for 2011-12 reintroduced the Contracts for Excellence. For many districts this may represent an opportunity to align Contracts for Excellence programs with Race to the Top (RTTT) reforms.

Under the law, 23 school districts will be required to file a Contract for Excellence for 2011-12. The enacted State budget requires these districts to file a Contract for Excellence to maintain their previous Contract Amounts approved by the Commissioner, as reduced by the cumulative percentage amount of each district's net Gap Elimination Adjustment for 2010-11 and 2011-12. As there is no increase in Foundation Aid this year, your district will only be responsible for accounting for this reduced maintenance of effort amount for 2011-12. Please see the attached table for the final C4E Contract amounts calculated under the law for each district.

All of the reports, guidance and forms from previous years remain on our C4E website (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/C4E/>) for reference. To reduce costs, we have developed a streamlined application form based on a simple spreadsheet that captures funding allocations at the school and program level, along with the necessary narratives. There is also an Excel Targeting Matrix posted on the website to use in calculating your revised targeting to students with the greatest educational needs, consistent with regulations.

Similar to previous years, districts will be able to redesign C4E programs if they wish to reallocate Contract funds to meet changing needs or to refine the focus of the funds for improved student achievement. Districts will need to enter allocations by school and C4E program. Please refer to the Targeting Matrix to assess the impact of the funds on student populations and meet the requirements of the program. Districts must ensure that funds are predominately targeted to students with the greatest educational needs.

The dollar amounts to be maintained by each district, a calendar for 2011-12 activities, the form templates (copies attached) needed to complete your application, and questions and answers (FAQs) to address the changes for this year are posted on our web site www.emsc.nysed.gov/mgtserv/C4E. Please refer to this site often for additional guidance.

There will be an on-line training session held on **August 23, 2011** from 12:30 - 2:00 pm, with an opportunity for submitting questions by note or email in advance and during the meeting. Note that you may need to download software needed to support the online training using Elluminate. Specific guidance is provided on our website listed above. Please contact us at 518-474-6541 before the session date if you need assistance in configuring your system.

The submission deadline this year is **September 15, 2011**. After you certify and submit your Contract, you must post to your C4E website, using the attached templates, the following reports describing your Contract for Excellence Plan to start the required 30-day public comment period and conduct public hearings:

1. Narrative overview of Contract for Excellence
2. Detailed C4E allocations by program and school
3. District certification and planned dates for meeting public process requirements

You may use a portion of a regularly scheduled school board meeting to meet the requirement for a public hearing. You must provide and advertise the opportunity to make specific comments on the C4E plan for 2011-12 and identify it as a separate agenda item, as reflected in the Board Agenda and Minutes. You will have the opportunity, of course, to revise and resubmit your Contract after the public comment period closes and you have assessed public comments. We expect this time line to help districts plan for implementation of the Contracts in September.

Please let us know any questions or concerns you may have. You can e-mail us concerning C4E at emscmgts@mail.nysed.gov.

Attachments

cc: John B. King, Jr.
Deborah H. Cunningham