



OFFICE OF INNOVATIVE SCHOOL MODELS
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November 22, 2010

Mr. Jean-Claude Brizard
Superintendent of Schools
Rochester City School District
131 West Broad Street
Rochester, NY 14614

Dear Superintendent Brizard:

Thank you for welcoming the Office of Innovative School Models Accountability Team to the Rochester City School District November 8th through the 10th. We conducted productive visits to the Persistently Lowest Achieving schools, both new and phase out, in your district. The staff at each school should be commended for being well prepared and hospitable during our visits. Each school offered us full access to their school improvement documents and to observe classrooms.

As this was a preliminary site visit, full monitoring reports will not be issued for each of the schools. However, following is a bulleted summary of the district level evidence we gathered during our visits.

- District staff state that no further discussions have taken place regarding revising the teachers' collective bargaining agreement.
- All principals and teachers hired to staff the four new schools, that will replace phase out schools, were interviewed for their positions.
- Some of the principals in the phase out schools are new; some have been retained.
- The phase out schools have each retained some students that failed to be promoted to the next grade, and they are offering credit-recovery courses and credit-recovery programs to those students.
- School leaders are being supported by district level instructional leaders and by district zone chiefs.
- The district has completed extensive work on the Rochester Curriculum. This system includes: curriculum that is aligned to NYS Learning Standards; instructional resources; media clips; lesson plans; lesson plan adaptations for differentiation; a curriculum pacing calendar; benchmark assessments; and subsequent data. The curriculum is written for ELA and mathematics in grades 3 through 9. Curriculum in grades K-2 is currently being developed. Science and Social Studies curriculum is currently under development, as well.

Additionally, district staff members are in the process of comparing the Rochester Curriculum to the Common Core Standards.

- Data liaisons have been hired by the district to help building level staff members use data to inform instruction.
- District staff members state that all of the 1003(g) funding is being utilized by the 5 schools that are implementing an intervention model - the 4 new schools implementing the turnaround model, and East High School, which is implementing the transformation model.
- District staff members state other funding streams are being used to support the phase out schools.
- District staff members and school leaders stated that school leaders have flexibility to offer professional development based on school and staff needs.

If you or your district staff would like to submit a response to this gathered evidence, please feel free to do so via email at sholder@mail.nysed.gov , or at the following address.

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Sincerely,

Sharon Holder

Sharon Holder, Ed. D
Supervisor of Education Programs
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c: Sally Bachofer
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