



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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TO: Members of the Cooperative Boards of New York State
Interested Constituents

FROM: James A. Kadamus

SUBJECT: Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Report Cards

Chapter 436 of the Laws of 1997 required the preparation and distribution of a BOCES report card pursuant to regulations of the Commissioner. In December 1997, the Board of Regents adopted regulations to implement this requirement.

The BOCES report card reflects the commitment of the Board of Regents and the Commissioner to public reporting of the performance of the educational system in this State. The BOCES are a critical part of the educational system in New York State and must be included in the reporting system.

As you are aware, school report cards have been issued annually since December 1996. The school and BOCES report cards are part of a strategy to raise the educational performance of students. To achieve that end, parents, teachers, administrators and communities need to know student performance levels, and base changes in instruction, fiscal management, and resource allocation on identified needs. The BOCES provide shared programs and services addressing a variety of educational, administrative and technical needs of component school districts. These services enable students to achieve higher learning standards.

I view this eighth annual report card as a tool for continuously improving the BOCES programs and services and in providing information to your communities. Thank you for your efforts toward and continued support of raising the knowledge, skill and opportunity of all people in New York State.