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To: Superintendents of Public Schools
Charter School Leaders

From: Ira Schwartz

Subject: Participation Rate Status Report

On January 17, 2019 the New York State Education Department (NYSED or “the Department”) announced the final accountability status of schools and districts for the 2018-19 school year. After reviewing the New York State assessment data used in the accountability designations, the Department has determined which public schools met the 95% assessment participation rate requirement for one or more accountability groups in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, or both in the 2017-18 school year.

NYSED has posted a Participation Rate Status Report (“Part Rate Plan Report 2018-19”) to the Information and Reporting Services (IRS) portal at <http://portal.nysed.gov/portal/page/pref/PortalApp>. The Report provides information on the overall participation rate status of each school as well as each accountability group in the school for ELA and math State assessments.

As required in the State’s approved Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan and specified in Commissioner’s Regulations 100.21, schools that meet certain criteria in the 2017-18 and 2018-2019 State assessments must create a Participation Rate Improvement Plan to be implemented for the 2019-20 school year. A 2019-20 Participation Rate Improvement Plan will be required if a school meets all of the following six conditions for an accountability group on either the ELA or math assessments, or both:

1. The subgroup failed to meet the 95% participation rate requirement in the 2017-18 school year; and
2. The subgroup failed to meet the 95% participation rate requirement in the 2018-19 school year; and
3. The subgroup did not show improvement in participation rate between the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years; and
4. The subgroup did not show improvement in participation rate between the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years; and
5. The subgroup did not perform at Level 3 or 4 on the Weighted Average Achievement Index (or Composite Performance Level if a high school) in the 2017-18 school year; and
6. The subgroup did not perform at Level 3 or 4 on the Weighted Average Achievement Index (or Composite Performance Level if a high school) in the 2018-19 school year.

The Participation Rate Status Report indicates whether one or more accountability groups in a school met criteria 1, 3, and 5 above. If the same accountability group(s) that met criteria 1, 3, and 5 in 2017-18 also meets criteria 2, 4, and 6 in the 2018-19 school year, the school will be required to develop a Participation Rate Improvement Plan for the 2019-20 school year (see column 5 in the summary report). These schools are designated as “PPRIP” (potential participation rate improvement plans). Schools that will not be required to develop a participation rate improvement plan for the 2019-20 school year regardless of 2018-19 school year results are designated as “GS” (good standing). The elementary-middle and high school reports included in the worksheet include the data used to determine the status for each accountability group. For more information about the worksheet, see the attached “Participation Rate Improvement Plan Status Report Guide 2018-19.”

Schools currently designated as “PPRIP” will be required to create a Participation Rate Improvement Plan for 2019-20 if there is not improvement in participation rates and performance levels on the 2018-19 school year ELA and/or math assessments as described in criteria 2,4, and 6 above. This data is being provided to you for planning purposes and in the hopes that it will be helpful to your communications with students and their families regarding participation in the 2018-19 State assessments.

The Department remains committed to working with educators to develop assessments that allow students to demonstrate what they know and are able to do. We look forward to supporting you in your efforts to improve student participation and performance on State ELA and math assessments.

Should you have any questions regarding the participation rate requirements or Participation Rate Improvement Plans, please contact our Office of Accountability at accountinfo@nysed.gov.

Attachment

cc: District Superintendents
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