**New York State Education Department**

**Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

**Draft Guiding Principles for NYS Public School Accountability System**

1. The goal of the New York State (NYS) public school accountability system is to support the development of highly effective schools and to encourage and enable all schools towards becoming or remaining highly effective. (See Characteristics of Highly Effective Schools)
2. The NYS public school system will provide multiple rigorous pathways to graduate students who are prepared for post-secondary education, careers, and positive civic engagement.
3. The NYS accountability system will consistently and transparently communicate expectations that are understood and supported by students, parents, educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders.
4. The NYS accountability system will promote, support, and reward positive and innovative change in all schools in the state.
5. The NYS accountability system will strongly incentivize and support efforts for schools to implement multi-tiered systems of support to close gaps in student achievement among all accountability groups.
6. The NYS accountability system will use state assessments that are valid, reliable, and developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate.
7. School accountability indicators will include multiple measures of progress and growth, and will not be based solely on measures of student achievement.
8. All academic subjects beyond language arts and math for which there are New York State assessments will be part of the NYS accountability system.
9. The NYS accountability system will incentivize and support districts to provide and expand access to student’s opportunities to participate in and successfully complete advanced coursework such as Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB), as well as rigorous arts, career and technical education, language, and music programs.
10. The NYS accountability system will include non-academic measures of school quality and student success, including but not limited to career readiness, student engagement, school climate, safety, inclusion, and student emotional and developmental health.
11. NYS will establish opportunity to learn standards (e.g., standards intended to ensure that students have access to resources that promote learning such as quality instructional materials) that must be implemented in schools identified for support and improvement.
12. Accountability goals will include measures of student success after graduation from high school through gathering data on indicators such as post high school education, employment and military service, as soon as such data can be reliably collected.
13. Requirements for schools identified for improvement will be based upon the best practices of highly effective schools and research-based practices, as modified to best meet the needs of students at the identified schools.
14. The primary responsibility for school improvement will be the school and the district. The New York State Education Department’s role is to support these efforts and to actively intervene when underperformance persists after the school/district solutions have not succeeded, in order to foster continuous improvement in these schools.
15. Every district with identified schools shall demonstrate through required plans that the district is using federal, state, and local resources effectively and efficiently to support school improvement.
16. Stakeholders will be engaged and have a significant role in developing and implementing the NYS accountability system and as a result will be able to articulate how schools are measured, understand the status of the district and its schools, and have knowledge of how gaps in student achievement and performance are being addressed.
17. The NYS accountability system will meet all federal requirements including ESSA, the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, and IDEA, and will be seamlessly aligned with concurrent state accountability mechanisms.
18. The NYS accountability system will be designed consistent with the availability of state and local resources and human capital, as well as ongoing efforts to strengthen teacher and leader effectiveness, and support school turnaround in struggling schools.
19. The Board of Regents shall continue to advocate for sufficient resources for districts and schools to achieve the goals of the accountability system and for greater equity in school funding.
20. The success of NYS accountability system shall be regularly reviewed by NYSED and stakeholders, and adjustments shall be made as necessary to accomplish the stated goals.