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Office of P-12

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TO: Superintendents of Public Schools
Directors of Charter Schools
Administrators, Coordinators, Directors of ELL Programs

FROM: Lisette Colón-Collins, Assistant Commissioner
Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages

Ira Schwartz, Assistant Commissioner
Office of Accountability

SUBJECT: Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives Improvement and Corrective
Action Plans for English Language Learners

Each year, based on federal accountability requirements, the New York State Education Department (NYSED or the Department) provides Title III Annual Measurement Achievement Objectives (AMAO) information under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and Title III consortia based on assessment results from the prior school year.

As you are aware, on December 10, 2015, President Obama signed the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Under ESSA, the AMAO provisions of Title III will sunset, and states must include English language proficiency in their accountability frameworks under Title I as a separate school performance indicator. As a result, English Language Learner (ELL) academic achievement will be more fully integrated into the Title I accountability system.

In order to ensure an orderly transition from NCLB requirements to those under ESSA, the United States Department of Education (USDE) has issued guidance regarding Title III AMAOs. A State is not required to make new accountability determinations based on 2014-2015 or 2015-2016 assessment data. NYS will freeze district accountability determinations under Title III based on the most recent AMAO calculations, but will continue to implement corresponding

supports and interventions in LEAs with Title III AMAOs for the remaining months of the 2015-2016 school year and the 2016-2017 school year.

An LEA that was required to develop and implement an improvement or corrective action plan in 2015-2016 must continue to implement that improvement or corrective action plan in the 2016-2017 school year, and the State must continue to provide technical assistance and support to such LEAs.

Given these new changes, it is critical that districts that fail to meet Title III AMAO targets for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years maintain improvement or corrective action plans that are complete and accurate.

The USDE is not requiring the calculation of AMAOs based on assessment results from 2014-2015, 2015-2016, or 2016-2017. As a result, States and LEAs are not required to comply with parental notification requirements in section 3302(b) of NCLB which requires each LEA that fails to meet one or more of AMAO to provide notice to parents of such failure.

If you have any questions or need assistance or more information, please contact the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages at (518) 474-8775 or (718) 722-2445.

We look forward to continuing to work in collaboration to provide services and instruction of the highest quality to our ELL students.

CC: Angelica Infante-Green, Deputy Commissioner