

meetings at which the District Performance Review was discussed shall be submitted to the appropriate County Superintendent's office by November 15 of that year or at such other time as the Commissioner may designate where the Commissioner has directed a district to undergo an immediate comprehensive review pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-11 and N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.1(a) or where the Commissioner is phasing a district into the NJQSAC process pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-53 and N.J.A.C. 6A:30-8.2(a). In the event that the district board of education does not approve all sections of the District Performance Review as submitted by the CSA, the district board of education may adopt a resolution indicating those sections of the District Performance Review of which it approves, and those with which it takes exception.

(g) Upon a showing of good cause, the district board of education may request that the Department grant a reasonable extension of time for submission of the District Performance Review. Failure by a public school district to conduct or submit a District Performance Review including a statement of assurance approved by the district board of education in accordance with the requirements set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2 may result in the withholding of State aid pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:55-2, or, in appropriate circumstances, the initiation of intervention activities as set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:30-6.2.

6A:30-3.3 Review and evaluation of District Performance Reviews

(a) Upon receipt of a public school district's District Performance Review and statement of assurance, the County Superintendent shall confirm the receipt of the documents and conduct a review, which shall include:

1. Reviewing the District Performance Review and Statement of Assurance for completeness;
2. Confirming the use of a committee, composed of representatives as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2(b)1, to complete the District Performance Review as demonstrated by the Statement of Assurance; and
3. Verifying the responses of the District Performance Review using relevant data, reports, facts, audit results, documents and/or other information. In connection with the review of the District Performance Review, the County Superintendent's staff may require that the school district submit documentation substantiating its responses or other information.

(b) Upon completion of the initial review, the County Superintendent shall notify the Chief School Administrator of any areas of the District Performance Review that require additional clarification. When such a notification is warranted, the Department shall:

1. Issue a written request for any additional information, documentation or materials from the Chief School Administrator; and/or

2. Initiate one or more on-site visits to schools and/or other facilities, as needed to verify the accuracy of responses in the District Performance Review.

(c) Appropriate County Superintendent staff shall compile and analyze the results of each public school district's District Performance Review and any additional review conducted by Department staff and shall develop a recommendation for the public school district's placement on the performance continuum. This recommendation shall be submitted to the Commissioner for a final decision. The Commissioner shall review this recommendation as well as any other data, facts, reports, audit results, documents and/or other information that may inform a well-reasoned final decision in determining the public school district's placement on the performance continuum.

6A:30-3.4 Comprehensive review of public school districts in year three of District in Need of Improvement Status

(a) Public school districts that have been designated, pursuant to "No Child Left Behind," 20 U.S.C. §§6301 et seq., as a "District in Need of Improvement" for three consecutive years, may be required to have a comprehensive review in the form of an evaluation conducted by a team of highly skilled professionals pursuant to the procedures set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:30-8.3(b) through (d).

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2, public school districts subject to the provisions of this section shall not be required to complete a District Performance Review as part of the comprehensive review. The team leader of the evaluation team shall, as part of the evaluation, conduct an entrance interview with the CSA of the public school district, at which time the CSA shall report on the public school district's progress in complying with the quality performance indicators. The evaluation team shall also interview one or more members of the administrative staff of the public school district, one or more teaching personnel, the business administrator and assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, other appropriate public school district level personnel, one or more members of the local collective bargaining unit of the educational staff, and one or more members of the district board of education in order to ascertain the public school district's progress in complying with the quality performance indicators.

(c) At the conclusion of its review, the evaluation team shall submit a report to the Commissioner that shall contain recommended findings and conclusions with respect to the public school district's performance in each of the five key components of school district effectiveness. The Commissioner shall review this recommendation, as well as any other data, facts, reports, audit results, documents and/or other information that may inform a well-reasoned final decision, in determining the public school district's placement on the performance continuum.

SUBCHAPTER 4. PERFORMANCE CONTINUUM

6A:30-4.1 General requirements

(a) On or before January 30 of the school year in which the public school district's comprehensive review occurs, or at such other time as the Commissioner may designate where the Commissioner has directed a district to undergo an immediate comprehensive review pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-11 and N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.1(a) or where the Commissioner is phasing a district into the NJQSAC process pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-53 and N.J.A.C. 6A:30-8.2(a), the Commissioner shall issue a final determination of each public school district's performance and placement on the performance continuum, based on the comprehensive review. The Commissioner shall promptly notify public school districts of that determination and shall notify the State Board at its next public meeting.

(b) For each public school district, the Commissioner's determination regarding placement on the performance continuum shall be in the form of a school district profile consisting of the reporting of the percentage of weighted quality performance indicators satisfied by the public school district in each of the five key components of school district effectiveness.

(c) At the time of issuing his or her determination regarding each public school district's placement on the performance continuum, the Commissioner shall also issue to each public school district that has complied with the requirements of the comprehensive review set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3 a letter certifying the public school district's continued operation as a public school district in the State of New Jersey for a period of three years, or until the public school district's next comprehensive review, whichever is sooner.

(d) Each public school district that satisfies between 80 and 100 percent of the weighted quality performance indicators in each of the five key components of school district effectiveness shall receive a letter from the Commissioner designating it as a "high performing" school district.

(e) Each public school district shall be required to report its placement on the performance continuum, as determined by the Commissioner, at the next public meeting of the district board of education.

SUBCHAPTER 5. IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES TO
SUPPORT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

6A:30-5.1 Public school district obligations for continual improvement

Each public school district shall continuously strive for improvement in all areas of school district functioning in

order to enhance student achievement and to ensure that it provides a thorough and efficient education to all students.

6A:30-5.2 Improvement activities for public school districts that satisfy less than 80 percent of the weighted quality performance indicators in one or more components of school district effectiveness

(a) Public school districts that satisfy less than 80 percent of the weighted quality performance indicators in one or more of the key components of school district effectiveness shall be required to commence improvement activities as set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.3 through 5.7. These improvement activities shall include development and implementation of a NJQSAC district improvement plan, approved by the Commissioner. Other improvement activities may include:

1. An in-depth evaluation conducted by the Department, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.3; and
2. Receipt of technical assistance, provided by Department staff or by one or more highly skilled professionals, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.7.

6A:30-5.3 In-depth evaluation

(a) The Commissioner shall determine whether to conduct an in-depth evaluation of a public school district pursuant to the following criteria:

1. The Department shall conduct an in-depth evaluation of public school districts that satisfy less than 50 percent of the weighted quality performance indicators in one or more of the five key components of school district effectiveness as determined by the comprehensive review, unless the Commissioner determines that a comprehensive evaluation of the school district by or directed by the Department has occurred within the last year;
2. The Department may conduct an in-depth evaluation for public school districts that satisfy between 50 and 79 percent of the weighted quality performance indicators in one or more of the five key components of school district effectiveness as determined by the comprehensive review. In making this determination, the Commissioner shall consider:
 - i. Whether other evaluations of the public school district exist that address the areas of deficiency or limited capacity identified through this comprehensive review process, and that may obviate the need for an additional in-depth evaluation; or
 - ii. Whether the public school district can demonstrate through documentation or other data that it is engaged in efforts to address the areas of deficiency or limited capacity identified through the comprehensive review process; and

6A:30-7.4 Implementation of the transition plan

(a) Upon approval by the Commissioner, the transition plan shall be presented at a public meeting of the district board of education and officially noted in the minutes. The district board of education shall be immediately required to implement the provisions of the transition plan.

(b) During the period of transition, the Department shall continue to monitor the public school district, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.6, to ensure that progress is sustained and that the transition plan is being implemented.

(c) The transition plan shall be updated and amended as the public school district achieves compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2(a) with respect to the other components or as other circumstances warrant.

6A:30-7.5 Transition process for the governance component of school district effectiveness for public school districts under full State intervention

(a) A district board of education that is transitioning from full State intervention will continue to have the rights, powers, and duties of an advisory board notwithstanding that it may be placed in partial State intervention as part of the transition to local control, unless and until the component of governance has been returned to local control.

(b) Despite the continuation of the district board of education as an advisory board, the State Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Commissioner, may return some voting functions to the district board of education as part of and in furtherance of the process of transition to local control of the governance component of school district effectiveness. If some voting functions are returned to the district board of education, the Commissioner or his or her designee shall have the authority to veto any action by the district board of education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-53(c).

(c) Not more than one year following the return of the component of governance to local control, the district board of education shall call a special election for purposes of placing the question of classification status pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:9-1 et seq. before the voters of the public school district, which election shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes concerning school elections.

6A:30-7.6 Completion of the transition process

(a) Upon complete satisfaction of all components of a full transition plan to local control, the Commissioner shall recommend to the State Board that the withdrawal from intervention be completed and that the public school district be fully returned to local control.

(b) Upon approval by the State Board, the Commissioner shall make a determination regarding the public school district's placement on the performance continuum, notify the public school district of this action, and issue a letter to the school district designating it as a "high performing" school district.

SUBCHAPTER 8. TRANSITION OF ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO THE NJQSAC MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM
6A:30-8.1 General requirements

As of February 22, 2007, public school districts shall be initially evaluated and placed on the performance continuum pursuant to the procedures set forth in this subchapter.

6A:30-8.2 Level I public school districts

(a) Public school districts certified as Level I by the State Board of Education prior to February 22, 2007 shall be phased into the NJQSAC comprehensive review process and evaluated by the Department in accordance with a schedule established by the Commissioner. In establishing this schedule, the Commissioner shall take into account the time period that has elapsed since the last on-site monitoring of the public school district by the county superintendent pursuant to the former rules in effect prior February 22, 2007. During the phase-in of the NJQSAC monitoring process, public school districts that have not yet undergone a comprehensive review shall continue to complete and submit a Quality Assurance Annual Report (QAAR) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-12.1.

(b) Based on the public school district's satisfaction of the weighted quality performance indicators in each of the five components of school district effectiveness, as determined by the Department's review of all relevant information and data, the Commissioner shall assess public school district performance and capacity and shall place each public school district on a performance continuum, pursuant to the procedures set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3 and 4.

6A:30-8.3 Public school districts certified as Level II and Level III and State operated public school districts

(a) By June 22, 2007, the Commissioner shall conduct an evaluation of public school districts designated pursuant to P.L. 1996, c. 138 as Level II, Level III and State-operated.

(b) The Commissioner shall convene an evaluation team consisting at a minimum of highly skilled professionals to conduct the evaluation of Level II, Level III and State-operated public school districts. At the discretion of the Commissioner, the evaluation team may also include public school district representatives and other individuals with expertise in the areas of curriculum and instruction, fiscal management, operations, human resources and organizational

dynamics and governance. The Commissioner shall designate a team leader to coordinate the evaluation and completion of the final report.

(c) The evaluation team shall assess public school district performance and capacity in each of the five key components of school district effectiveness, as measured by the weighted quality performance indicators.

(d) The evaluation shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

1. A pre-evaluation conference by the evaluation team with the Chief School Administrator to discuss the scope of the review and the procedures to be followed;
2. On-site visits to the public school district's central office, and, in the discretion of the evaluation team, on-site visits to one or more of the public school district's schools. The dates for such on-site visits shall be established by the team leader in advance, in consultation with the Chief School Administrator of the public school district;
3. A review of any documents or other written materials deemed relevant by the evaluation team. The Chief School Administrator shall make such materials available to the evaluation team upon the team's request;
4. Interviews by the evaluation team with appropriate public school district staff and their collective bargaining representatives in order to obtain their perspectives regarding the performance of the public school district; and
5. A public meeting arranged by the Chief School Administrator, at which parents, school employees and community residents may comment on public school district policies, practices, performance and capacity. The public meeting shall be duly advertised and conducted in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. seq.

(e) Within the time period allotted for the evaluation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-53(b), the evaluation team shall submit a report to the Commissioner. The report shall make recommended findings and conclusions with respect to the public school district's performance in each of the five key components of school district effectiveness.

(f) Within the time period allotted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-53(b), the Commissioner shall review the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation team and shall produce a final report containing his or her determination with respect to the public school district's placement on the performance continuum. That report shall be provided to the public school district's Chief School Administrator and board of education.

(g) The public school district shall have 30 days from the date of receipt of the Commissioner's report to appeal the placement decision to the State Board.

(h) The Department and the public school district shall initiate all appropriate improvement and intervention activities based on the public school district's placement on the performance continuum, as determined by the Commissioner.

1. If the Commissioner determines that the public school district satisfies 80 to 100 percent of the weighted quality performance indicators in each of the five key components of school district effectiveness, the Commissioner shall send the school district a letter designating it as a "high performing" school district pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-4.1(d).

2. If the Commissioner determines that the public school district satisfies less than 80 percent of the weighted quality performance indicators in one or more of the components of school district effectiveness, the Department and the public school district will engage in the improvement activities delineated at N.J.A.C. 6A:30-5.1 through 5.7 as applicable.

3. If the Commissioner determines that the Level II or Level III public school district satisfies less than 50 percent of the weighted quality performance indicators in one or more of the components of school district effectiveness, that at least one of the factors set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:30-6.2 is present and that the public school district should be placed under partial or full State intervention, the Commissioner may seek intervention by issuing an Order to Show Cause why an administrative order for partial or full intervention, as appropriate, should not be implemented pursuant to the procedures set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:30-6.3 or 6.6.

4. If the Commissioner determines that a State-operated public school district meets the factors for initiating return of one or more components of school district effectiveness to local control pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.1, the Commissioner shall recommend to the State Board that the process for initiating transition to local control of those components of public school district functioning be initiated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2, and that the public school district be placed under partial State intervention with respect to the remaining components of public school district functioning.

5. If the Commissioner determines that a State-operated public school district does not meet the factors for initiating return of any components of school district effectiveness to local control pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.1, the Commissioner shall recommend to the State Board that the public school district shall operate under full State intervention.

SUBCHAPTER 9. OBSERVATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES AND EVALUATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

6A:30-9.1 Observation of instructional practices and evaluation of public school district facilities

Nothing in this chapter shall limit the ability of the Department to monitor public school district practices by, among other things, conducting on-site visits to observe instructional practices and school facilities, or to take other such action as in the judgment of the Commissioner or his or her designee,

may be warranted to ensure the satisfaction of any statutory or constitutional obligation.

SUBCHAPTER 10. APPEALS

6A:30-10.1 Appeal process

A public school district may appeal decisions of the Commissioner to the State Board pursuant to the provisions set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:4.

NEW JERSEY QUALITY SINGLE ACCOUNTABILITY CONTINUUM

DISTRICT PERFORMANCE REVIEW (DPR)

INSTRUCTION AND PROGRAM

District: _____

County Office: _____

Period of Review: _____

Unless otherwise indicated, the District Performance Review indicators will be used to evaluate conditions and performance in the district over the preceding three year period. This section of the DPR is divided into six sections labeled A-F. Section A-D must be completed by all districts. Section E applies only to those districts having early childhood programs. Section F applies only to those districts with one or more high schools. In order to attain points, the district must answer "yes" to each numbered indicator or block of indicators. Partial points are not awarded.

		POINT VALUE	DISTRICT SCORE			COUNTY SCORE			COMMENTS (COUNTY USE ONLY)
			Y E S	N O	S C O R E	Y E S	N O	S C O R E	
A. STUDENT PERFORMANCE	SUGGESTED DOCUMENTATION								
	<i>The district meets the NCLB targets for all students and for students in all subgroups. The district uses student performance data across all New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) to guide instructional programs.</i>	64							
	For the indicators in Section A, use the DPR Assessment Worksheet to guide your responses.								