

New Jersey Department of Education



**Paterson Public School District's Progress in the
Transition to Local Control**

January 8, 2020 State Board Meeting



The Transition Plan



- The District’s Transition Plan for the Return of Local Control (“Transition Plan”) became effective on September 6, 2018.
- The projected end date of the Transition Plan is September 6, 2020, which is contingent upon the District’s successful implementation of the Transition Plan.



The Transition Plan



- How is progress under the Transition Plan measured?
 - By the quantitative metrics on the Accountability Scorecard; and,
 - By the qualitative observations and feedback of the Highly Skilled Professionals (“HSPs”):
 - Mr. Theodore Best (Technical/Governance)
 - Dr. Stephen Cowan (Instruction & Program)
 - Dr. Alexis Colander (Special Education)



The Accountability Scorecard



- The metrics on the Scorecard address the following areas:
 - Fundamental Considerations
 - Governance
 - Instruction and Program
 - Fiscal Management
 - Personnel



The Accountability Scorecard



- Pursuant to the Transition Plan, the Department partnered with an independent entity (the Bloustein Local Government Research Center of Rutgers University) to form a Comprehensive Accountability Office (“CAO”).
- The CAO is responsible for collecting and publishing data that corresponds to the Scorecard and demonstrates whether the District is making “substantial and sustainable” progress on the metrics.



The Accountability Scorecard



- Five Scoring Categories:
 - Not Implemented (1 point)
 - Partially Implemented (2 points)
 - Substantially Implemented (3 points)
 - Fully Implemented (4 points)
 - Not Applicable (metric cannot be measured at this time)



The Accountability Scorecard



- 23 Metrics (28 scores because some metrics have more than one part):
- Summary of Scores:
 - 13 metrics were “fully implemented.”
 - 10 metrics are being “substantially met.”
 - 4 metrics are being “partially implemented.”
 - 1 metrics is “not applicable” at this time.
- The CAO’s justification for the metrics scored as “substantially met” is that the metric “requires a continuing effort,” which means that it is premature to make a sustainability judgment.



The Accountability Scorecard



- The “partially implemented” metrics are in the category of Fiscal Management.
- For these metrics, the CAO explained that although the District met the statutory deadlines for the budget process and has systems in place for the development and approval of the budget, the implementation of these systems is evolving and needs additional attention and consistency.



The HSP's Report



- The report is based on the observations of the HSPs and their interactions with the District since April 2019.
- The report complements the CAO's report by providing anecdotal information and/or addressing sections of the Transition Plan that are not on the Scorecard.
- The information provided by the HSPs demonstrates that the District is developing and improving internal controls that support sustainability and successful implementation of the Transition Plan.



Next Steps



- The Department will continue to check-in with the HSPs.
- The CAO's Progress Report is due in March 2020.
- The CAO's website, which contains links to the District's documents that support the scores, is live and can be found at this link:
 - <https://go.rutgers.edu/46g4vdyr>.



Questions?



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