

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

December 4, 2019 State Board Meeting

Please note that this Powerpoint Presentation has been modified from its original format to be more accessible.



The Transition Plan 1

- The District's Transition Plan for the Return of Local Control ("Transition Plan") became effective on February 1, 2018.
- The projected end date of the Transition Plan is January 31, 2020, which is contingent upon the District's successful implementation of the Transition Plan.



The Transition Plan 2

- 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 Professional (“HSP”), Ms. Anzella Nelms.



The Accountability Scorecard 1

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



The Accountability Scorecard 2

- 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 3

- 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 4

- CAO's First Annual Report (presented to the State Board at the June 2019 meeting) covered the period from February 1, 2018 to January 30, 2019.
- CAO's Interim Report is covering the period from February 1, 2019 to July 31, 2019.



The Accountability Scorecard 5

- District's Scores:
 - In the First Annual Report, the CAO determined that 12 of the 23 scoring opportunities were “fully implemented.”
 - The Scorecard has 17 metrics, but some metrics contain more than one component.
 - The majority of the metrics that were not fully implemented either did not apply at the time or the CAO explained that it was premature to make a sustainability judgment.



The Accountability Scorecard 6

- **District's Updated Scores in the Interim Report:**
 - **Fundamental Considerations:** the District confirmed that no complaints were filed with the School Ethics Commission and no complaints are pending. The CAO found that the District's practices are sustainable.
 - **Updated score: 3 →4**
 - **Governance:** the District completed the evaluation of the superintendent by 6/30/19.
 - **Updated score: n/a →4**
 - **Fiscal Management:** The District confirmed that the budget requirements were completed by the end of the fiscal year and completed the required professional development.
 - **For 4 metrics, updated scores: 3 →4**
 - **Personnel:** the District provided extensive documentation to demonstrate its implementation of AchieveNJ and sustainability of practices.
 - **Updated score: 2 →4**



The Accountability Scorecard

- Outstanding Scores:
 - **Governance:** District was in the process of conducting activities this Fall to complete expectations regarding student enrollment (Interim Report only covers period until 7/31/19).
 - **Fiscal Management:** The CAFR is the method of measurement for one of the Metrics and the District does not expect to receive this document from the auditors until December.



The HSP's Interim Report

- The interim report is based on the HSP's observations and interactions with the District from February 2019 to July 31, 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 HSP continues to demonstrate 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 HSP on a weekly basis.
- 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://mosaic.njaes.rutgers.edu/~dfarnsworth/scorecard-front/>
- The CAO's next, and potentially final, Annual Report is due on January 31, 2020.



Questions?

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