

New Jersey Department of Education

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

July 1, 2020 State Board Meeting



Please note that this PowerPoint presentation has been modified from its original version to be more accessible.

The Transition Plan (1 of 2)

- 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 was January 31, 2020, which is contingent upon the District's successful implementation of the Transition Plan.



The Transition Plan (2 of 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 of 6)

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



The Accountability Scorecard (2 of 6)

- 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 of 6)

- 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 of 6)

- 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.
- CAO's Final Report is covering the period from August 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020.



The Accountability Scorecard (5 of 6)

- Outstanding Scores following Interim Report:
 - **Governance:** The District has been in the process of completing requirements regarding the student enrollment system and the CAO confirmed that the District's activities fulfilled the metric.
 - **Fiscal Management:** The CAFR is the method of measurement for one of the Metrics and the District had not received this document during the last reporting period (through 7/31/19).



The Accountability Scorecard (6 of 6)

- In review of the documentation submitted by the district for the CAO's Final Report, the CAO concluded that:
 - The district completed the outstanding metrics and earned perfect scores of 4.
 - The district has continued to implement systems, which demonstrate that the practices are sustainable.
 - Therefore, the CAO determined that the final scores of *all* of the metrics are perfect 4's and that the District has completed the Transition Plan.



The HSP's Final Report

- The HSP's Final Report summarizes the district's hard work and collaboration in implementing the Transition Plan since February 1, 2018.
- The report is very detailed and 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 confirms that the District successfully completed the Transition Plan and has systems and internal controls in place to ensure sustainability of the new practices.



Commissioner's Recommendation

- Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.6, the Commissioner has the authority to determine whether the District successfully implemented the Transition Plan and to recommend to the State Board the District's withdrawal from intervention and full return to local control.

