

# New Jersey Department of Education



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

**October 7, 2020 State Board Meeting**



# The Transition Plan (slide 1 of 2)



- 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 (slide 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 Professionals (“HSPs”):
    - Mr. Theodore Best (Technical/Governance)
    - Dr. Stephen Cowan (Instruction & Program)
    - Dr. Alexis Colander (Special Education)



# The Accountability Scorecard

(slide 1 of 5)



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



# The Accountability Scorecard

(slide 2 of 5)



- 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

(slide 3 of 5)



- 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

(slide 4 of 5)



- 23 Metrics (28 scores because some metrics have more than one part):
- Summary of Scores:
  - 17 metrics were “fully implemented.”
  - 11 metrics are being “substantially met.”
- 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

(slide 5 of 5)



- The District made significant progress in those areas that were only partially implemented in the CAO's previous report.
- Each of those areas have improved to “substantially met.”
- The District also improved in a number of categories previous scored as “substantially met,” demonstrating full implementation of those metrics.





# The HSP's Report



- The report is based on the observations of the HSPs and their interactions with the District through March 2020.
- 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 Final Report will be prepared over the coming months.
- 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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