

## **Commissioner's Evaluation of the New Brunswick School District August 20, 2007**

The QSAC process is designed to evaluate the thoroughness and efficiency of all the public school districts in the State. This assessment will provide feedback to school districts both in terms of compliance with state and federal requirements and best practices in schools in five key areas – Operations Management, Personnel, Instruction and Program, Governance and Fiscal Management. In accordance with the statutory requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-10 et seq., the New Brunswick School District was assessed by an evaluation team that made a preliminary determination of the status of the district on each of the indicators contained in the District Performance Review (DPR). That work was then reviewed by senior staff in the Department of Education, who used data and other information available in the Department, to recommend a final score in each of the five areas examined by QSAC.

After reviewing the recommendations of the senior staff delineated in the attached memorandum from Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer, I have adopted those recommendations. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-53, the Commissioner is obligated to review the results of the reports and examine all relevant data to ensure that the final determination of performance in each area is appropriate and accurately reflects the district's achievement of each of the performance indicators. Therefore, some adjustments have been made to the evaluation team's results to reflect information available to the Department and to ensure consistency within and among the DPR results. I have made the following determination as to the New Brunswick School District's placement on the QSAC continuum in each of the five areas:

**Operations Management** - 100% of indicators met.

**Personnel** – 78% of indicators met.

**Instruction and Program** – 42% of indicators met.

**Governance** – 89% of indicators met.

**Fiscal Management** – 58% of indicators met.

Pursuant to the regulations governing QSAC implementation, you may appeal this decision to the State Board of Education within 30 days by following the procedures outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:30-8.3. In addition, if you disagree with any of these determinations, you may present information to support your position and request that I reconsider my decision within 7 days of the date hereof, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-8.3(h).

Because the New Brunswick School District has met fewer than 80% of the indicators in three areas, the district will be required to prepare an improvement plan. Staff from the Division of School and District Improvement will work collaboratively with you to complete that process. In addition, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-11, the Commissioner may take steps to place the district under partial state intervention in the area where the District has met fewer than 50% of the indicators, Instruction and Program. Such determination will be made as this process moves forward.

## MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioner Lucille E. Davy  
From: Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer  
Re: QSAC Report from New Brunswick  
Date: August 16, 2007

The Department of Education's senior staff examined the results of the QSAC review completed by an evaluation team and proposes the following modifications based upon information provided by the evaluation team as well as from data and other information in the department. A final weighting in each of the five areas examined by QSAC -- Operations Management, Personnel, Instruction and Program, Governance, and Fiscal Management-- is recommended to you as noted below.

### Operations Management

Overall Score: Evaluation Team
Raw Score: 100 Possible Points: 100 Total Score: 100%
Overall Score: Department Recommendation
Raw Score: 100 Possible Points: 100 Total Score: 100%

- Department staff concurred with the findings of the evaluation team.

### Personnel

Overall Score: Evaluation Team
Raw Score: 80 Possible Points: 100 Total Score: 80%
Overall Score: Department Recommendation
Raw Score: 78 Possible Points: 100 Total Score: 78%

- Department staff recommends rescoring indicator #B5c because evidence indicates that all medical records are kept in the school nurses' office. While the district has a process to maintain the confidentiality of annual health updates, personnel files with other medical information should not be available to the school nurse and principal. The change reduces the total by 2 points.

### Instruction and Program

Overall Score: Evaluation Team
Raw Score: 56 Possible Points: 120 Total Score: 47%
Overall Score: Department Recommendation
Raw Score: 51 Possible Points: 120 Total Score: 42%

- Department staff recommends rescoring indicator #B2 since updated curriculum aligned to the Core Curriculum Content Standards is not available in all content areas. The change reduces the total by 3 points.
- Department staff recommends rescoring indicator #B4 since the evaluation team's notes indicate that interdisciplinary instruction is not included in all curriculum areas, reducing the total by 2 points.

### **Governance**

Overall Score: Evaluation Team

Raw Score: 89 Possible Points: 100 Total Score: 89%

Overall Score: Department Recommendation

Raw Score: 89 Possible Points: 100 Total Score: 89%

- Department staff concurred with the findings of the evaluation team.

### **Fiscal Management**

Overall Score: Evaluation Team

Raw Score: 62 Possible Points: 100 Total Score: 62%

Overall Score: Department Recommendation

Raw Score: 58 Possible Points: 100 Total Score: 58%

- Department staff recommends rescoring indicator #B2 because the evaluation team's notes indicate that the June 30, 2006 report was late, reducing the total by 3 points.
- Department staff recommends rescoring indicator #B4f, because the evaluation team's notes indicate that blanket POs are issued, reducing the total by 1 point.