

New Jersey Department of Education

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

February 5, 2020 State Board Meeting



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

The Transition Plan

- The District's Transition Plan for the Return of Local Control ("Transition Plan") became effective on October 25, 2018.
- The projected end date of the Transition Plan is October 25, 2020, which is contingent upon the District's successful implementation of the Transition Plan.



The Transition Plan continued

- 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”), Dr. Elnardo Webster.



The Accountability Scorecard

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



The Accountability Scorecard continued

- 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 continued 2

- 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 or no longer applies)



The Accountability Scorecard continued 3

- 20 Metrics (25 scores because some metrics have more than one part):
- Summary of Scores:
 - 2 metrics were “fully implemented.”
 - 4 metrics are being “substantially met.”
 - 13 metrics are being “partially implemented.”
 - 2 metrics are “not applicable.”
- From the CAO’s Report, it appears that although the District may be implementing the activities on the scorecard, there are not systems in place that institutionalize the actions/practices or that result in documentation to demonstrate compliance.



The HSP's Report

- The report is based on the observations of the HSP and his 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 report highlights the various issues faced by the District this past year that created challenges in the District's implementation of the Transition Plan.



Next Steps

- The Department will continue to check-in with the HSP.
- The CAO's next Progress Report will cover the time period through April 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/NJSDScorecard>



Questions?

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