

New Jersey Department of Education



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

February 3, 2021 State Board Meeting



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

The Transition Plan *(slide 1 of 2)*



- 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 was October 25, 2020. Due to difficulties associated with the pandemic, the timeline for the completion of the Transition Plan has been extended.



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, Dr. Elnardo Webster, Dr. Stephen Cowan and Dr. Alexis Colander.



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.
- The Comprehensive Accountability Office 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 or no longer applies)



The Accountability Scorecard

(slide 4 of 5)



- 20 Metrics (25 scores because some metrics have more than one part):
- Summary of Scores:
 - 6 metrics were “fully implemented.”
 - 3 metrics are being “substantially met.”
 - 13 metrics are being “partially implemented.”
 - 2 metrics were “not implemented.”
 - 1 metrics are “not applicable.”
- From the Comprehensive Accountability Office’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 Accountability Scorecard

(slide 5 of 5)



- The District improved in some areas from “partially implemented” in the Comprehensive Accountability Office’s previous report to “substantially met.”
- The District also improved in two categories previously scored as “substantially met,” demonstrating “full implementation” of those metrics.
- The District remains “partially implementing” in many areas in the Scorecard.



The Report of the Highly Skilled Professional



- The report is based on the observations and interactions with the District through October 30, 2020.
- The report complements the Comprehensive Accountability Office'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 meet with the Highly Skilled Professionals and the Comprehensive Accountability Office to ensure the District is moving towards a return to full local control.
- The Comprehensive Accountability Office'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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