

# NJQSAC

## **New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum**

NJQSAC is the Department of Education's new monitoring and evaluation system for public school districts. It is a single comprehensive accountability system that consolidates and incorporates the monitoring requirements of applicable state laws and programs and complements federally required improvements. Each public school district shall conduct a comprehensive review every three years. The system will focus on monitoring and evaluating school districts in five key areas.

- Instruction and program;
- Personnel;
- Fiscal management;
- Operations; and
- Governance.

### **1. Comprehensive Review**

Each public school district shall complete a District Performance Review (DPR), which consists of a self-assessment tool that measures the school district's compliance with the weighted quality performance indicators, validated with data, in all five areas of school district effectiveness. To attain points the district must answer "yes" to each numbered indicator or block of indicators. Partial points are not awarded. Unless otherwise indicated, the District Performance Review indicators will be used to evaluate conditions and performance in the district over the preceding three year period.

### **2. Convene a Committee**

CSA appoints a district performance review committee, determines the total number of people that will serve, and include, members of the administrative staff, teaching personnel, Business Administrator, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, appropriate public school district personnel, one or more members of the local bargaining unit selected by the local bargaining unit and one or more members of the board of education selected by the board of education. The CSA may include other persons on the committee with the approval of the board of education. The board of education may establish a subcommittee of the board to monitor the progress of and assist in, the completion of the District Performance Review. The board of education may also establish the process and procedures for the operation of the DPR committee which may include periodic reporting to the school board.

### **3. District Performance Review**

The committee completes a comprehensive review of the school district's compliance with the weighted quality performance indicators in all five areas of school district effectiveness. Upon completion of the District Performance Review, the CSA shall sign a statement of assurance attesting to the accuracy, ensuring that the responses reflect the circumstances that exist in the school district and that all responses to the DPR can be verified by data and supporting documentation or otherwise and provide this verification to the Department upon request. The District Performance Review and the statement of assurance shall be approved by the board of education by resolution and submitted to the County Superintendent's Office by November 15<sup>th</sup>.



#### **4. Department of Education Review**

The County Superintendent shall confirm the receipt of the documents and the use of a committee and will verify the responses. Appropriate County Superintendent staff shall compile and analyze the results of District Performance Review and develop a recommendation for placement on the performance continuum. The recommendation is submitted to the Commissioner for a final decision. By January 30<sup>th</sup> the Commissioner shall issue a final determination of performance and placement on the performance continuum, based on the comprehensive review.

#### **5. Placement on the Continuum**

Each public school district shall be required to report its placement on the performance continuum, as determined by the Commissioner, at the next public meeting of the district board of education.

*The district satisfies 80 to 100 percent...* of the quality performance indicators in each of the five key components of district effectiveness, the commissioner shall issue a letter of recognition designating the district as **“high performing.”** The commissioner shall recommend that the State board certify the school district for a period of three years as providing a thorough and efficient system of education, contingent on continued progress in meeting the quality performance indicators.

*The district does not satisfy 80 percent...* of the quality performance indicators; the commissioner shall require the district to develop an improvement plan to address the quality performance indicators with which the district has not complied. The improvement plan shall be submitted to and approved by the commissioner. If necessary, the commissioner may authorize an in-depth evaluation of the district to determine the causes for the district's noncompliance with the quality performance indicators. The commissioner shall review the district's progress in implementing the improvement plan not less than every six months. Technical assistance may be provided by Department personnel and/or by one or more highly skilled professionals (HSP).

*The district satisfies less than 50 percent...* of the quality performance indicators in one to four of the five components of school district effectiveness, the Department of Education shall conduct an in-depth evaluation of district. Depending on other factors the Commissioner may seek to initiate State intervention.

#### **6. School District Obligations for Continual Improvement**

Each public school district shall continuously strive for improvement in all areas of school district functioning in order to enhance student achievement and to ensure that it provides a thorough and efficient education to all students.

*During the phase-in of the NJQSAC monitoring process, school districts that have not yet undergone a comprehensive review shall continue to complete and submit a Quality Assurance Annual Report (QAAR).*

