

Syracuse City



School District



# Assurance of Discontinuance: Quarterly Report November 2014 – January 2015

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Independent Monitor

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# Methodology

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“Putting a District-wide strategy into practice requires building a coherent organization that connects to teachers’ work in classrooms and enables people at all levels to carry out their part of the strategy.”



# Context

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- **Initial Findings:**

- Initially, implementation of The Code of Conduct, Character and Support was met with considerable resistance from some members of the community.
- The District has worked diligently to initiate systems, structures and protocols that allow the central office to better provide guidance, support and accountability to schools.

- **2014-15 Focus**

- The Independent Monitor will focus guidance and oversight on ensuring that the District establishes policies, procedures, and infrastructure that will enable it to implement the districtwide provisions required in the Assurance.

# Overall Status of Implementation

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| Rating                                    | Explanation  | # of Provisions with Ratings in Q1 |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Provision Satisfied</b>                | All requirements for this provision have been met.   | 4                                  |
| <b>Adequate Progress</b>                  | The District has made agreed upon progress on deliverables and timelines for this provision and is on track to satisfy the provision.  | 15                                 |
| <b>Inadequate Progress</b>                | The District has not yet satisfied the requirements specified for adequate or superior progress on this provision.   | 1                                  |
| <b>Not Started/Not Rated This Quarter</b> | Based on the Independent Monitor's methodology, this provision has strategically not yet been addressed.<br><b>In Q1, this includes anything with an EOY deadline and items that are primarily focused on school-level implementation.</b> | 17                                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              |  | <b>37</b>                          |

\*There are a total of 101 provisions included in the AOD. The Independent Monitor's report covers provisions 30-84. Several of these provisions are grouped in an effort to streamline reporting.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Highlights

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| Provision # | Highlight  | Recommended Next Steps   |
|-------------|--|--|
| 33          | The District has advertised but not yet filled the Ombudsman position. The Executive Director of Student Support has been managing the responsibilities.   | Develop and implement an aggressive recruitment strategy that ensures the position is filled before the start of the 2015-16 school year.  |
| 34          | School administrators are serving as the Coordinator of Student Behavior in every school. The central office staff has implemented an ongoing professional development strategy to support the Coordinators of Student Behavior.   | Direct resources towards a professional development plan that supports teachers in the following areas: restorative practices, culturally relevant education and de-escalation strategies. |
| 53          | With stakeholder engagement and feedback, the District has revised, published, and disseminated a Code of Conduct in hard copy and online.   | Develop a plan that ensures the next iteration of the Code is revised, approved and ready for families including high-incidence languages prior to the first day of school in August 2015. |
| 58          | The District has published <i>Guidelines for Student Discipline &amp; Due Process</i> , a comprehensive and easily accessible guidance document that focuses on the legal standards with regard to due process requirements and District guidelines for student discipline when Level 2 and Level 3 behavior violations occur. District staff delivered complementary training to administrators and Coordinators of Student Behavior. | Expand training around investigatory protocols and school-based structures for informal conferences.   |
| 76          | the District purchased an electronic behavioral management system, the <i>Educator's Handbook</i> that enables both District and each school to monitor student behavior and related data points.  | Initiate protocols for reviewing discipline data and monitoring school practices at school and district levels.  |

# Next Reporting Period Focus Areas

## February – April 2015

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- **Evidence of access and effectiveness of advocacy services (Provision 40)**
- **Approval of the School Resource Officers (SRO) Memorandum of Understanding and strategy for training and engagement (Provisions 47, 68-70)**
- **Status of comprehensive training plan for all District personnel (Provisions 57, 59 -63)**
- **Status of Technology/data management plan (Provision 76)**
- **Review of Complaint logs (Provisions 81-83)**

# Comments & Questions

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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