

Syracuse City



School District



# Assurance of Discontinuance: Quarterly Report February – April 2015

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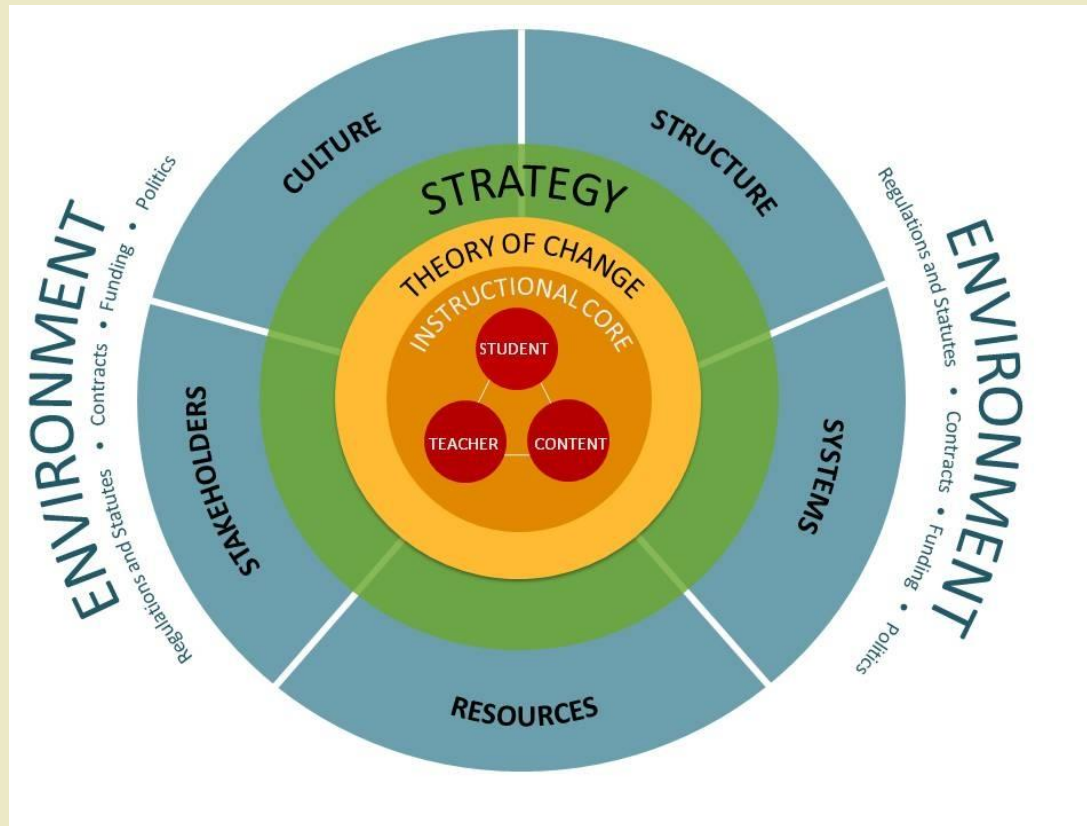
Independent Monitor

July 8, 2015

# 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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- The District has continued to show improvements in establishing the organizational structures and systems that are needed to address the provisions outlined in the Assurance of Discontinuance.
  - Hiring key staff
  - Strengthening implementation of discipline policies
  - Providing professional development

# Overall Status of Implementation

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Rating	Explanation	AOD Provision	# of Provisions with Ratings in Q2
Provision Satisfied	All requirements for this provision have been met.	30 33 34 42-43 46 53 58	8
Adequate Progress	The District has made agreed upon progress on deliverables and timelines for this provision and is on track to satisfy the provision.	31 32 35 37-39 40 44 48 53-54 57-61 64 81-84	21
Inadequate Progress	The District has not yet satisfied the requirements specified for adequate or superior progress on this provision.	N/A	0
Not Started/Not Rated This Quarter	Based on the Monitor's methodology, this provision has strategically not yet been addressed. This includes anything with an EOY deadline and items that are primarily focused on school-level implementation.	41 45 47 49-52 54 65-66 68-73 74-80 86	24
<b>*Total</b>			<b>53</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 effort to streamline reporting.

# Quarterly Highlights

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Provision #	Highlight	Recommended Next Steps
33	Hiring of Dr. Cheryl Atkinson as the Chief Ombuds Officer on 4/3/15. The Chief Ombuds Officer will serve as the primary contact person for receiving data inquiries from the Independent Monitor.	The Chief Ombuds Officer will work directly with the Superintendent, central office staff and school-based administrators to ensure all data and documentation requests are handled in a timely manner.
35	To date, the Board of Education has approved 11 new positions at the central office to support implementation of the Assurance.	Hire 3 vacant positions ensure current staff are directed to address the analytic needs of the Assurance.
40	SCSD contracted with Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) to hire five Student and Parent Advocates to support families through the discipline process. In May 2015, the Board approved funding for an additional advocate for the 2015-2016 school year. The District also employs two Parent Liaisons to provide advocacy services to parents and students. Implementation of The Code and greater central office oversight of discipline practices has led to a 50% decrease in Superintendent's hearings between Jan. 2014 and Jan 2015.	Develop protocol and process to ensure school-level administrators are providing students recommended for short-term suspension access to advocates and all the due process protections afforded to them pursuant to federal and NYS law.
44	As of April 30, 2015, the district reported 340 out-of-school suspensions in grades K-5, a 77.4% decrease from 2013-2014 and an 87% decrease from 2012-2013. The revised Code provides updated standards and requirements for school leaders regarding the suspension of students in grades K-2 and 3-5. In conjunction, the District has implemented key reforms that ensure principals adhere to K-5 discipline requirements.	Further review of K-5 suspensions to ensure all incidents meet the "persistent and egregious" standard while continuing to require that school-based administrators receive consultation prior to suspending any student in grades K-5. Develop a tracking for intervention plans and offer targeted training and professional development to early childhood teachers.

# Quarterly Highlights

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Provision #	Highlight	Recommended Next Steps
57-61	<p>During SY2014-2015, the SCSD focused district-wide training efforts on three areas: building awareness of the new code of conduct, culturally relevant educational practices and restorative practices. In addition, the District partnered with agencies to offer technical assistance and embedded support in classroom management.</p> <p>SCSD has licensed software, Teachscape to track enrollment and participation of employees at professional development sessions.</p>	<p>Develop a comprehensive professional development plan that includes job-embedded training that is targeted and based on teacher and school specific needs with expanded professional development in the areas of intervention strategies, de-escalation strategies, techniques for working with students and families who have experience trauma, and restorative practices.</p> <p>Transition to an automated system for collecting PD feedback.</p>
64	<p>At the May Board meeting, the Commissioners approved a contract for My Student Survey, the vendor to provide the climate assessment survey. The survey will be administered before the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester in SY2015-2016.</p>	<p>Develop a climate survey administration plan that meets the requirements of the Assurance and submit to the Independent Monitor by July 30<sup>th</sup>.</p>
81-84	<p>In March 2015, the SCSD transitioned from a manual complaint tracking systems to the Let's Talk platform, a single, centralized, secure cloud-based communications tool that allows stakeholders to submit questions and concerns about various topics.</p>	<p>Expand Let's Talk platform next school year to include individual schools.</p>

# Next Reporting Period: SY2014-2015 Annual Report

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- The next Independent Monitor report will provide a comprehensive review of the District's progress on all of the Assurance provisions to date and the SY2015-2016 monitoring plan.

# Comments & Questions

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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