New York State Receivership Legislation

Community Presentation by Darren Brown
Interim Superintendent of Schools
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Basic Facts About the New Law

- “Persistently Struggling” schools must show improvement in one year or be taken over by an outside receiver.
- “Struggling Schools” have two years to show improvement before outside receivership.
- Data for improvement targets will be released by NYSED.
- Schools must have public hearings and community engagement teams to involve families and neighborhood stakeholders.
- $75 million is set aside to help persistently struggling schools execute intervention plans—20 schools statewide.
What is Receivership?

- State law requires “persistently struggling” or “struggling” schools to make rapid achievement gains.
- An appointed receiver will have broad authority to set and manage school improvement plans.
- The Superintendent will act as a receiver first.
- If schools do not meet improvement targets within one or two years, the District is required to appoint an outside receiver approved by the State.
The intent of School Receivership is to address potential barriers to school turnaround in the following areas:

- Governance
- District Support
- Fiscal Resources
- School Leadership and Staffing
- Collective Bargaining Agreements
- Parent and Community Engagement
- Social and Emotional Developmental Health of Students (Community Schools)
Superintendent as School Receiver

Timeline

- In a Failing School, the Superintendent is given 2 years initially with “receivership” powers to improve performance.
- In a Persistently Failing School, the Superintendent is given 1 year initially with “receivership” to improve performance.

Vested with the Powers of a Receiver, Including the Ability to:

- Review and make changes to the school budget.
- Create/change school program and curriculum.
- Supersede a decision made by the Board of Education.
- Require all staff to reapply for their positions.
- Implement professional development for staff.
- Expand the school day or year.
- Convert the school to a charter school, pursuant to the law.
- Request changes to the collective bargaining agreement.
- Convert the school to a community school.
Buffalo Receivership Schools
Year 1: Persistently Struggling

- School #6 – B.E.S.T.
- School #37 – Marva J. Daniels Futures Academy
- School #94 – West Hertel Academy
- School #301 – Burgard High School
- School #206 – South Park High School
Turnaround Grants

**Intended Uses**: Funds may be used for purposes that include, but are not limited, to:

- Use of school buildings as community hubs to deliver co-located or school-linked academic, health, mental health, nutrition counseling, legal and/or other services to students and their families.
- Expansion, alteration or replacement of the school's curriculum and program offerings.
- Extension of the school day and/or school year.
- Professional development of teachers and administrators.
- Mentoring of at-risk students.
- The expenses related to contracting with Independent Receivers.
Buffalo Receivership Schools
Year 2: Struggling Schools

Bennett High School #200
Bilingual Center #33
B.U.I.L.D. #91
D’Youville Porter Campus #3
Dr. Lydia T. Wright #89

East High School #307
Frank A. Sedita #30
Harriet Ross Tubman #31
Harvey Austin School #97
Herman Badillo School #76
Buffalo Receivership Schools
Year 2: Struggling Schools

Highgate Heights #80
International Prep High #198
Lafayette High #204
McKinley High #305
Public School #17

Dr. Charles R. Drew Science #59
North Park Academy #66
Hamlin Park Elementary #74
Riverside High #205
Waterfront School #95
Implementation of Department Approved Plan

- The Superintendent implements a Comprehensive Education Plan or Department-approved Intervention Model (e.g., School Improvement Grant).
- The Plan must incorporate specific “rigorous performance metrics and goals” specified in the law.

Evaluation

At the end of the one- or two-year period in which a Failing or Persistently Failing School is under Superintendent Receivership, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner must determine whether the school should be removed from designation, allowed to continue to be operated by the school district with the Superintendent Receiver, or be placed into Independent Receivership.
Receivership: Governance

Ability to supersede policy, decision, or regulation

• The School Receiver is authorized to manage and operate the Failing or Persistently Failing school and will have the power to supersede any decision, policy or regulation of chief school officer, or of the board of education or another school officer or the building principal that in the sole judgment of the Receiver conflicts with the school intervention plan; provided however, that the Receiver may not supersede decisions that are not directly linked to the school intervention plan.

Limitations on authority

• Superintendent Receivers cannot override the Board of on decisions related to his or her own employment.
Receivership School Timeline

- **July 1, 2015**
  - Education Transformation Act of 2015 Takes Effect

- **July 16, 2015**
  - State Education Department announces receivership schools

- **August 2015**
  - District must notify families of school receivership status
  - Community Engagement Teams formed at each receivership school
  - Schools conduct public hearings by September 22nd

- **September 2015**
  - State releases data for school improvement targets
  - District submits Community Engagement Plans, improvement plan revisions
  - NYSED makes baseline visits to Persistently Struggling schools

- **October 30, 2015**
  - Superintendent Receiver submits first Quarterly Report

- **February 2016**
  - State Education Department identifies new list of Priority schools

- **January 29, 2016**
  - Superintendent Receiver submits second Quarterly Report

- **April 29, 2016**
  - Superintendent Receiver submits third Quarterly Report

- **April/May 2016**
  - NYSED makes Demonstrable Improvement visits to Persistently Struggling schools

- **July 29, 2016**
  - Superintendent submits fourth Quarterly Report

- **Summer 2016**
  - NYSED makes Demonstrable Improvement determination for Persistently Struggling schools
**Parent and Community Notification Requirements**

- The district must provide annual notice to parents and guardians of the students of a school that may be placed into receivership. Notices must be translated in the native languages of the students.

- The district must also hold a public meeting or hearing annually for purposes of discussing the performance of the school and the concept of receivership. An interpreter must be present at the public meetings.

**Community Engagement Team**

- Upon the designation of a Failing School or Persistently Failing School, the district will establish a Community Engagement Team (CET), including, but not limited to, the school principal, parents and guardians, teachers and other school staff and students.

- The membership of the CET may be modified at any time. The CET must develop recommendations for improvement of the school and solicit input through public engagement. The team will present its recommendations periodically to school leadership, and to the Receiver, as applicable.
Parent & Community Engagement

Stakeholder Participation in the Creation of the School Intervention Plan

- Each approved school intervention plan must be based on stakeholder input, recent diagnostic reviews and student achievement data.
Everyone Must Help Our Schools to Improve and Avoid the Risk of Outside Receivership

CENTRAL OFFICE
- Use data to drive decisions and guide school plans
- Pick the right school leaders
- Provide them the flexibility and support they need

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS AND STAFF
- Analyze assessments
- Deliver high-quality instruction to meet academic needs
- Demonstrate growth in ELA and Math
- Use expanded time to engage and support students

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY
- Student attendance
- Proper behavior
- Completion of course work
- Reading outside of school
Summary – Next Steps for Districts withPersistently Struggling and Struggling Schools

By no later than September 30, 2015, the Superintendent Receiver must submit:

- The Community Engagement Plan,
- The Public Notice and Hearing Requirements Template,
- Any locally developed metrics for demonstrable improvement, and
- Any revisions to the previously submitted SCEP, SIG, or SIF plan in order to obtain final Department approval of the plan and continue to have the powers of a Receiver.