



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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To: New York State Charter School Leaders and Board Chairs †  
From: Sally Bacher, Assistant Commissioner *Sally Bacher*  
Date: April 18, 2012  
Subject: Teacher-Student Data Linkage Verification Reports – Charter School Guidance

In March, SED Assistant Commissioner for Data Systems, Ken Wagner, sent out a memo related to **Teacher-Student Data Linkage Verification** which can be found at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/teacher/TSDL-and-RosterVerification-final3-15-12.pdf>, that provides important updates on reporting and verifying teacher-student data linkage (TSDL) information in the Student Information Repository System (SIRS). We have received a number of questions about the applicability of the information contained in this memo for NYS charter schools, as well as technical questions about how to submit and verify the data. This memo is designed to provide additional guidance specific to charter schools. Please note the following:

- Public charter schools are not subject to the requirements of Education Law [§3012-c](#) regarding the annual professional performance review of classroom teachers and building principals.
- However, for purposes of participation in the State's RTTT plan and receiving allocated funds to implement Section D activities, charter schools must evaluate all classroom teachers and building principals using a comprehensive annual evaluation system that is consistent with the following elements of Education Law [§3012-c](#):
  - (1) is based on multiple measures of effectiveness, including 40% student achievement measures, which would result in a single composite effectiveness score for every teacher and principal;
  - (2) differentiates effectiveness for teachers and principals using the following four rating categories: Highly Effective, Effective, Developing, and Ineffective; and use such annual evaluations as a significant factor for employment decisions including promotion, retention, supplemental compensation, and professional development; and
  - (3) provides for the development and implementation of improvement plans for teachers or principals rated Developing or Ineffective.
- If a public charter school's teachers are represented by a collective bargaining unit, the teacher evaluation system must conform to the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement.
- All public charter schools, regardless of whether they are participating in Race to the Top, must report and verify TSDL data (except for the exemptions specified in the list of TSDL data elements in Appendix A of the memo). See Education Law [§2857\(2\)\(a\)](#), [NYCRR 119.3 \(a\)\(3\) and \(7\), \(b\)\(1\)\(v\) and \(b\)\(6\)](#), and Education Law [§215](#).

Public charter schools **outside of New York City** should contact their Regional Information Center (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/2011-12/2011-12SIRSGuidance/NEWER/RICandBig5Contacts20111220.doc>) for support and guidance on submitting and verifying this data.

For public charter schools **in New York City**, NYCDOE is working with SED to determine how best to continue to meet your data collection and reporting needs. NYCDOE will update NYC charter schools as soon as additional information is available.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Charter School Office at 518-474-1762 or [charterschools@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:charterschools@mail.nysed.gov).

† **Ongoing Request: Update Your SEDREF Information.** If your charter school's board chair and leader are not receiving this email, please check that your publicly-displayed information on NYSED's SEDREF system is accurate at [http://portal.nysed.gov/portal/pls/pref/SED.sed\\_inst\\_qry\\_vw\\$.startup](http://portal.nysed.gov/portal/pls/pref/SED.sed_inst_qry_vw$.startup). Instructions for updating this information can be found at <http://www.oms.nysed.gov/sedref/home.html>. Please copy [charterschools@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:charterschools@mail.nysed.gov) on any update requests. If you want another member of the school's staff to be copied, please email [charterschools@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:charterschools@mail.nysed.gov). Thanks.