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To: Abbott District Superintendents

From: David Sciarra, Executive Director

Date: November 22, 2004

Re: Abbott X Whole School Reform Requirements

On November 17th, the Commissioner of Education withdrew his application to the NJ Supreme Court to modify the framework for implementation of Whole School Reform (WSR) as set forth by the Court's June 2003 order, referred to as Abbott X. (177 N.J. 578). A copy of Abbott X is available at on the ELC at:

<http://www.edlawcenter.org/ELCPublic/AbbottvBurke/AbbottDecisions.htm>

In light of the Commissioner's action, the Abbott X order remains in effect in its entirety. Thus, Abbott schools and districts must continue to implement the key requirements of Abbott X in the 2004-05 school year. These are:

(1) Every Abbott elementary school must continue to implement its selected WSR model.

(2) Those schools identified by the Department of Education (DOE) as low performing will undergo external review by Collaborative Assessment and Planning for Achievement (CAPA) Teams (formerly Performance Assessment Teams). The CAPA Team is required to review not only obstacles to improved student performance, but parent participation, WSR model implementation, supplemental programs and other issues. The CAPA Team will make findings on strategies for improving performance and program implementation. Based on those findings, the school and district will develop an agreement, which can require continued implementation of the selected WSR model; selection of another WSR model; or implementation of an alternate WSR design. The Commissioner must approve the agreement.

(3) Those schools identified as high performing by DOE may revise its operational plan which can include either adjusting implementation of the selected WSR model; selection of another WSR model; or implementation of a WSR alternate design. The Commissioner must approve the plan.

(4) Those schools that did not implement their selected WSR model in 2002-03 were required to reinstate and implement that WSR model in 2003-04, and must continue to implement the reinstated model in 2004-05, unless the Commissioner has made a specific determination that there is no appropriate model for the school and has authorized implementation of an alternate WSR design.

Any school having problems with performance by their selected WSR model during 2004-05 can request assistance from the Commissioner in addressing these problems.

Finally, every Abbott school must continue to implement supplemental programs as set forth the "Chart of Supplemental programs" included in the Abbott X order. The Chart is attached to Abbott X and also is available on the ELC website.

Please feel free to contact me should you have further questions.

cc: Abbott District Business Administrators
New Jersey Education Association
New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association
New Jersey School Boards Association
WSR Model Developers