

# Schenectady City School District

108 Education Drive  
Schenectady, NY 12303-1238



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**TO:** Parents/Guardians

**FROM:** Laurence T. Spring, Superintendent

**DATE:** August 2019

**RE:** ESSA Accountability & New York Schools

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) aims to ensure all children get a quality education. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has established a new set of indicators to measure school performance. The new indicators include student academic achievement, student growth and school progress, progress of English language learners, chronic absenteeism, and, for high schools, graduation rates and preparing students for college, career and civic readiness.

Accountability Ratings are explained in greater detail on the NYSED website. In short, the accountability system classifies schools into one of three categories: In Good Standing, a Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school, or a Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school.

All identified TSI and CSI schools are required to complete a School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP) that details the way in which they are focused on increasing the quality of instruction; improving the effectiveness of the leadership and teaching; and improving student achievement and graduation rates for all students, with an emphasis on identified subgroups. In addition, Target districts must also develop an annual District Comprehensive Improvement Plan (DCIP) to identify and implement initiatives to improve student learning and accountability measures.

At Schenectady City Schools, NYSED issued the following ratings for the 2018-19:

Good Standing	Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI)	Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI)	CSI Struggling School in Receivership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hamilton Elementary School</li> <li>• Howe Elementary School</li> <li>• Woodlawn Elementary School</li> <li>• Zoller Elementary School</li> <li>• Central Park Middle School</li> <li>• Oneida Middle School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Van Corlaer Elementary School</li> <li>• Mont Pleasant Middle School</li> <li>• Schenectady High School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lincoln Elementary School</li> <li>• Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School</li> <li>• Paige Elementary School</li> <li>• Pleasant Valley Elementary School</li> <li>• Yates Elementary School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• W. C. Keane Elementary School</li> </ul>

**◆ OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Laurence T. Spring**  
Superintendent

**Patricia Paser**  
Assistant to the Superintendent

**OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Dr. Aaron T. Bochniak**  
District Director  
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Based on feedback and experience, NYSED has concluded that Public School Choice did not always support school improvement or better opportunities for students, as higher-performing schools were not typically available, and the transfer of students could lead to greater segregation and inequity while increasing financial burdens for districts and schools already facing challenges. Therefore, Public School Choice, as stipulated under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 is no longer required under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

### **How can parents help their school improve?**

Here are some suggestions to help you work with your school and district to support improvements that also serve as alternatives to Public School Choice:

- Assist in the development of the school's Comprehensive Improvement Plan.
- Become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement.
- Additional information and resources are available at the following websites:
  - [www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov) - The NYS Education Department
  - [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) - The US Department of Education
- Talk with school and district staff about the Improvement Plan to help students in meeting the State standards in reading and mathematics
- Visit your child's school and volunteer.

If you have any questions about the rating of the school in which your child attends, please reach out to Aaron Bochniak, District Director of Planning and Accountability @ 518-881-3405.

OFFICE OF PLANNING &  
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