

# **“Persistently Dangerous” Schools**

**August 21, 2007**

# Part 1: Actions Announced Today

- **27 schools are on the list of “persistently dangerous” schools under NCLB.**
- **8 schools are also coming off the list issued last year.**
- **We are making this announcement today so parents can exercise their option to transfer to other schools.**
- **Data for all schools showing all “violent and disruptive incidents” in 2005-2006 is online at [www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov)**

# **Part 2: Placing Schools on A “Watch List”**

- We will gather data from all schools for the 2006-2007 school year. Then we will analyze the data and –**
- We will create a “Watch List” of schools that – for 2006-2007 alone – have too many serious incidents.**
- These schools must improve to avoid being designated as “persistently dangerous” after 2 years.**

# **Making Schools Safer – Making Schools Accountable**

- New York is already more aggressive than any other state. Other 49 states listed only 30 “persistently dangerous” schools.**
- But we must and will do more.**
- The Regents are concerned especially about large urban high schools.**
- Will continue to monitor and audit more schools wherever schools appear “at-risk.”**
- Will continue to work more with schools in ways to intervene and make schools safer.**

# **Making Schools Safer – Making Schools Accountable**

**During the past year we have:**

- Conducted 100 site visits to monitor schools, reviewing their data; this included all schools on both lists.**
- Priority goes to monitoring schools that appear at-risk, show a sudden reduction in serious incidents, have zero incidents, and have alleged improprieties.**

**A “persistently dangerous” school has  
– over 2 years –serious incidents  
involving:**

- **Homicide**
- **Sexual offenses**
- **Robbery**
- **Assault with physical injury**
- **Arson**
- **Kidnapping**
- **Reckless endangerment**
- **Possession, use or threatened use of  
a weapon**

# **Criteria to Designate “Persistently Dangerous” Schools:**

- **Each incident is weighted for seriousness.**
- **Weightings are added. Total is divided by enrollment.**
- **Result is an “index” number.**

**A school is considered “persistently dangerous” if for both 2005-06 and 2006-07, it has either:**

- 1. An index of 1.5 (This is approximately 6 incidents per 100 students, more or less depending on the seriousness of the incidents.)**
- 2. At least 60 serious incidents and an index of at least .50**

# Steps to Identify Schools

- **51 schools met one of these criteria for 2005-2006.**
- **They were then asked to submit data for 2006-2007 and any documentation that might change their 2005-2006 data.**
- **Data for 2006-2007 were then reviewed.**
- **A total of 17 new schools were then designated as “persistently dangerous.”**
- **These schools must offer choice to students where possible and submit an incident reduction plan to be approved by the Commissioner.**

# **What Happens to Schools Designated “Persistently Dangerous?”**

- **School leaders must find and implement ways to make schools safer – an “Incident Reduction plan.”**
- **Each school receives \$100,000 to improve school safety.**
- **Staff from New York State Center for School Safety and Regional School Support Centers provide help to each school.**

# **Making Schools Safer – Making Schools Accountable**

- We created a single, uniform training program and provided extensive in-person regional training to school districts all over the State. Attended by more than 1,600 school staff responsible for safety and reporting.**
- Training is still going on now. Will focus on Big 5 Cities and other urban districts.**
- Training covers the rules for reporting, answers questions about specific incidents, and explains how to make schools safer.**

# **Making Schools Safer – Making Schools Accountable**

- We reviewed all explanatory materials and provided more information to schools.**
- Web-based training augments in-person training.**
- Question and Answer document is on web, updated constantly as schools ask new questions.**
- Districts report electronically. Districts got advice on software for easier reporting.**
- We streamlined the Incident Reports to make them more user-friendly.**

# **What Actions Can Schools Take to Reduce Violence?**

- Training staff in violence prevention, classroom management, controlling transition between classes**
- Identification and counseling of students to prevent aggressive behavior**
- Tracking student behavior and using positive, negative reinforcement**
- Security, surveillance**
- Other subtle intervention – e.g., greeting students at school door, teachers and staff monitoring hallways between classes.**

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