



SENIOR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION – P-16
Office of Elementary, Middle, Secondary and Continuing Education
Office of Higher Education

September 16, 2008

TO: District Superintendents of Schools
Superintendents of Public Schools
Teacher Center Directors
Teacher Organizations
Deans of Institutions of Higher Education
Parent Organizations
Other Partners

FROM: Johanna Duncan-Poitier

SUBJECT: Public Forums on Growth Model for New York State Accountability System

Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2007 calls for the creation of an enhanced accountability system, which includes the adoption of a Growth Model for Accountability by 2008-09. The New York State Board of Regents has taken the lead on drafting an enhanced accountability system that will help to drive student achievement and strengthen our ability to identify and close achievement gaps. The Growth Model proposal will have to be approved by the United States Education Department.

To make sure that New York's accountability system is high quality, relevant and meaningful to teachers, administrators, parents, students, policymakers and others, we invite you to participate in a series of public forums in September and October throughout the State. The forums are being convened to provide the Regents and the Education Department with a representative sampling of stakeholders' views on an enhanced accountability system. The public forums will provide a focused discussion on the proposed Growth Model, an opportunity for questions and answers as well as field input.

I strongly encourage the participation of teachers, school administrators, school board members, parents, and other interested organizations, including student advocacy groups, teacher organizations, and higher education representatives.

Each forum will present an overview on the Growth Model initiative with time devoted to small group discussions focusing on key issues related to the Growth Model system. Since the purpose of these forums is to get input from the field, participants will also be asked to complete a survey. The results of the survey will be recorded and shared with the Members of the Board of Regents.

If you wish to review the materials that the Board of Regents has been discussing related to the proposed Growth Model, you can find them on the Department's Web site. Links to each month's materials are provided below:

April 2008: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/2008Meetings/April2008/0408emscd3.doc>

June 2008: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/2008Meetings/June2008/0608emscd2.doc>

July 2008: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/2008Meetings/July2008/0708emscd1.doc>

September 2008: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/2008Meetings/September2008/0908emscd3.doc>

While pre-registration is not required to attend these forums, to assure that adequate space is available, I encourage you to do so by contacting the person indicated on the attached forum schedule for the forum you wish to attend.

I look forward to your participation in one of the forums to present your views on this important issue. The Board of Regents and the Department are interested in your input.

Attachment

**Growth Model for
Accountability Forum Schedule**

Date	Forum Location	Time
September 26, 2008	United Federation of Teachers (UFT) Conference Center 52 Broadway, 5th Floor New York, NY 10004 Pre-registration: Gladys Ortiz e-mail: gortiz@mail.nysed.gov	10:00 a.m. 12:00 noon
September 26, 2008	Questar III Conference Center 10 Empire State Boulevard Castleton, NY 12033 Pre-registration: Gladys Cruz Tel: (518) 477-8771 e-mail: gcruz@questar.org	9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
September 29, 2008	Wheatley Center 31 Lee Avenue Wheatley Heights, NY 11798 Pre-registration: Doreen Frazier Tel: (631) 687-3001 e-mail: dfrazier@esboces.org	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
October 8, 2008	RIT Conference Center 5257 West Henrietta Road W. Henrietta, NY 14586 Pre-registration: Mary Ellen Petersen Tel: (585) 344-7921 e-mail: mepetersen@gvboces.org	9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
October 10, 2008	Ausable Middle/High School 1273 Rt. 9N Clintonville, NY 12924 Pre-registration: Jane Landry Tel: (518) 561-0100 Ext. 359 e-mail: jlandry@cves.org	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
October 15, 2008	Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES Yorktown Campus Tech South Amphitheater 200 BOCES Drive Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 Pre-registration: Mary Lorenzo Tel: (914) 248-2302 e-mail: mlorenzo@pnwboces.org	8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.