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To: Superintendents of School Districts
From: Ira Schwartz 
Subject: Accountability System for Schools with Alternative Cohorts

Section 100.2(p)(16)(iii) of Commissioner's Regulations allows schools in which more than half the students enrolled have previously been enrolled in another high school or in which more than half the enrollment is receiving special education services to voluntarily submit the performance of an alternative high school cohort. The alternative cohort in any given year shall consist of those students enrolled in the high school on the first Wednesday of October three years previously who were still enrolled in the school on the first Wednesday of October two years previously. For Alternate Cohort Schools, the "number of students required to take courses" is the number of students enrolled on BEDS day in an ELA or math course required for graduation who did not subsequently transfer to another school, enroll in an approved GED program as of last day of the school year and remain enrolled, leave the country, become incarcerated or die.

This memo is to inform you that Local Educational Agencies (LEA) with schools that wish to participate in the alternative cohort should contact The State Education Department (SED) for approval to use the alternative cohort performance along with the regular cohort for accountability purposes. For the alternate cohort AYP results to be considered, the school needs to make alternate cohort AYP for all groups in both ELA and Math.

The alternate cohort data submission template is available on the SED website http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/APA/Forms/Forms_home.html. The data submission deadline is August 24, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Lisa Long at (718) 722-4553 or e-mail selfassessment@mail.nysed.gov. We look forward to continuing to work with you to develop appropriate measures to hold all students accountable for educational results.

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