

**QUICK GUIDE TO THE TEACHER DATA REPORTS RELEASE
FOR TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEMBERS
February 24, 2012**

Background on Teacher Data Reports

New York City's Teacher Data Reports were designed to show how much progress individual teachers helped students make in reading and math over the course of a year. From the 2007-08 through the 2009-10 school years, the New York City Department of Education (DOE) distributed these reports to schools and teachers in English and math, grades 4 through 8. The reports were designed to measure individual teachers' contributions to student learning, as measured by New York State English and math exams, using a "value-added" method that takes into account factors outside of a teacher's control like students' previous performance or special education status.

Releasing the Reports—February 2012

In 2010, more than a dozen media outlets filed a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request for the DOE to release these Teacher Data Reports, including teachers' names. The United Federation of Teachers (UFT) sued to prevent the release, and the DOE agreed to delay any release until the courts resolved the case. The legal process concluded in mid-February after several appeals, and the DOE is legally obligated to release this information, which we are doing on February 24, 2012. As a result, several media outlets will likely make the data publicly available.

Although the DOE believes, and research supports, that measures of student learning are an important part of teacher evaluation when used alongside other measures like classroom observations, we did not design the value-added data to be viewed by itself or published with teachers' names attached. In addition, even the most recent reports are almost two years old, so the teachers involved have had a lot of time to develop their practice. Although the DOE was compelled to release citywide reports to the media, we are asking schools **not** to distribute individual teachers' reports. Teachers have access to their own reports.

The DOE's early work on Teacher Data Reports helped us learn how to measure teacher contributions to student learning most effectively, and we have shared our lessons learned with the State Education Department, which will release a new version of teacher value-added data this summer. The State's new teacher evaluation system will also include value-added analysis as part of a strong teacher evaluation system that incorporates measures of student learning as one of multiple measures and gives teachers the feedback and support they deserve as professionals.

Where to Go for More Information

- Read Chancellor Walcott's [letter to teachers and principals](#) and his [op-ed in the New York Daily News](#)
- Look through the Teacher Data Report Release Overview Presentation and see answers to frequently asked questions in the [Teacher Data Toolkit](#)
- **Teachers:**
 - Access your own reports via [Get Your Reports](#) in the Teacher Data Toolkit
 - For log-in or other technical questions, contact HR Connect at 718-935-4000
 - For all other questions, please talk to your principal
- **Parents/Guardians:** Contact your child's principal or call 311 with any questions
- **Media Inquiries:** Contact the DOE's Office of Communications and Media Relations at 212-374-5141