



THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JOEL I. KLEIN, *Chancellor*

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007

SCHOOL ALLOCATION MEMORANDUM NO. 73, FY07

DATE: November 30, 2006

TO: **INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP DIVISION (ILD) SUPERINTENDENTS,
REGIONAL OPERATION CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, and
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

FROM: Susan Olds, Executive Budget Director

SUBJECT: EMPOWERMENT SCHOOL ASSESSMENT ALLOCATIONS

Empowerment schools will be provided funding to support assessment activities thru two initiatives: The Empowerment Schools Intensive and Design Your Own Assessment. These initiatives are geared to assist schools in developing assessment techniques and tools necessary to achieve educational objectives.

The Empowerment Schools Intensive

The Empowerment Schools Intensive (ESI) provides an opportunity to develop school-based expertise in looking at data and using the information to improve student outcomes.

Learning sessions for professional development will be provided for Principals, Assistant Principals, teachers or other staff, with strong leadership capacity, so that they are better able to analyze achievement data, student work, undertakes projects of in-depth inquiry into the strengths and weaknesses of a targeted group of struggling students and investigates how the school community can effectively improve academic performance.

The team will plan summer institutes for the full school faculty to reflect and implement plans to raise the achievement of the school's entire student population.

The goal will be to provide ongoing and productive support for the school-based teams in the areas listed herein:

- Information gathered from classroom observations.
- Review of student work
- The Accountability Office's new Progress Reports
- Quality Review feedback
- Periodic assessments
- The Data Management Systems that will be piloted in Spring 2007

The allowable cost factors will include:

- Supervisor Per Session
- Principal Per Session
- Teacher Per Session
- Guidance Counselor Per Session
- Prep Period Coverage/Per Diem
- OTPS – all categories

Table 1 presents each school's allocations. Funds should be scheduled in the allocation category **"TL Intensive ES"** and **"TL Intensive ES CW"**.

Design Your Own Assessments

The Office of Accountability is enabling Empowerment Schools to experiment with designing their own assessments. This is a critical step to aligning the new accountability reforms with the increasing autonomy that lies at the core of the Empowerment Schools' initiatives. Design Your Own (DYO) allows schools to develop their own assessments from scratch or build on existing school-specific assessments, including qualitative, portfolio or rubric-based assessments.

Empowerment Schools went through an intensive application process to be approved to design their own assessments. One hundred and two Empowerment Schools were approved to proceed to design their own assessments during the 2006-07 school year. Ninety-nine of those approved schools are receiving funds towards their DYO work.

Funds are specifically targeted towards the schools' design, implementation and interpretation of assessments. Further, the allocation is conditioned on schools complying, whenever applicable, with the deliverables described in the Office of Accountability's memorandum on qualitative assessments and the requirements set forth in the Office of Accountability's DYO application.

Table 2 displays the allocation for each school that was selected. Funds should be scheduled in the allocation category **"TL DYO Assessment"** and **"TL DYO Assessment CW"**.

Allocation Tables

Design Your Own Allocation

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