



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Interim Commissioner of Education
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January 12, 2021

APPR Plan - Variance

Peggy O'Shea, Superintendent
Cohoes City School District
7 Bevan St.
Cohoes, NY 12047

Dear Superintendent O'Shea:

Congratulations. I am pleased to inform you that your Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) plan variance application meets the criteria outlined in section 30-3.16 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and has been approved. As a reminder, we are relying on the information you provided in your variance application, including the narrative descriptions, certifications, and assurances that are included in the application. During the approved term of this variance, your LEA will implement the variance along with all other remaining provisions of your approved APPR plan. If any material changes are made to your approved plan and/or the terms of your approved variance, your LEA must submit such material changes to us for approval. Please see the attached notes for further information.

Please be advised that, pursuant to Education Law §3012-d, the Department will be analyzing data supplied by districts, BOCES, and/or schools and may order a corrective action plan if there are unacceptably low correlation results between the Student Performance category and the Teacher Observation or Principal School Visits category, and/or if the teachers' or principals' overall ratings and subcomponent scores show little differentiation across educators and/or the lack of differentiation is not justified by equivalently consistent student achievement results, and/or if schools or districts show a pattern of anomalous results in the Student Performance category and/or the Observation/School Visits category.

The New York State Education Department and I look forward to continuing our work together, with the goal of ensuring that every school has world-class educators in the classroom, every teacher has a world-class school leader to support their professional growth, and every student achieves success.

Thank you again for your hard work.

Sincerely,

Betty A. Rosa
Interim Commissioner

Attachment

c: Anita Murphy

NOTE:

Only documents that are incorporated by reference in your APPR variance application have been reviewed and are considered as part of your approved APPR variance application; therefore, any supplemental documents such as memorandums of agreement or understanding that were uploaded with your APPR variance application but are not incorporated by reference have not been reviewed. However, the Department reserves the right to review the uploaded attachments at any time for consistency with your APPR plan and/or to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and as a result of such review, the Department may reject your APPR plan or variance and/or require corrective action.

Pursuant to section 30-3.16 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, please note that an LEA with an approved variance shall provide to the Department, upon its request, any documentation related to the implementation and efficacy of the approach proposed in the variance, including but not limited to: reports on the correlation in assigned ratings for different measures of the LEA's evaluation system and differentiation among educators within each subcomponent and category of the evaluation system

Your variance is approved for the 2020-21 school year. Because you requested this variance to address issues related to COVID-19, the approval of this variance for any future school years (up to a three school year period) is contingent on the continuation of the current COVID-19 pandemic notwithstanding your request for this variance to apply in future school years. Upon expiration of state-imposed restrictions or emergency measures related to the pandemic, or abatement of the pandemic, it is expected that your variance will no longer be required. As such, SED may withdraw its approval of this variance for any subsequent school years or may require a separate application or other documentation for continuation of the variance in future school years. Upon expiration of the approved term of your variance, you must implement the terms of your current APPR plan as approved by the Commissioner.