



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY,  
NY 12234

**TO:** Full Board

**FROM:** John B. King, Jr.

**SUBJECT:** The Roosevelt Union Free School District and State Oversight Authority

**DATE:** March 3, 2011

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Discussion**

Extension of the Commissioner's Oversight of the Roosevelt Union Free School District.

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Under the Roosevelt legislation, the Commissioner can extend his oversight of the Roosevelt Union Free School District until June 30, 2013.

#### **Proposed Handling**

Recommended actions provided by the Commissioner will be discussed at the March 2011 meeting of the Board of Regents.

#### **Procedural History**

In January 2011 the P-12 Education Committee discussed the status of the Roosevelt Union Free School District with options for the Commissioner to extend his authority beyond June 30, 2011 including the authority to appoint and supervise the superintendent, and to exercise fiscal control and oversight of the District. The issue before the Board in March is the Commissioner's assessment of the conditions of the District and whether to terminate or extend the Commissioner's additional authority.

## Background Information

State takeover legislation and impact - Chapter 33 of the Laws of 2002 (later amended by Chapter 72 of the Laws of 2002) provided for State oversight of the Roosevelt Union Free School District by the Board of Regents and Commissioner with the following authority in relation to three major areas:

1. Removal of the board of education and the appointment of an interim board of education by the Board of Regents - the full board was replaced in 2002 and there is currently one remaining Regents appointee on the interim board who will serve through the remainder of the current school year.

**Assessment:** Legislative requirements have been satisfied and the transition to a fully elected board will be complete with the upcoming school board election.

2. Appointment of the Superintendent of Schools and other administrative appointments - the current superintendent is in his 4<sup>th</sup> year of service and was evaluated by the Commissioner on September 22, 2010. As a result of this evaluation, the superintendent's contract was extended through June 30, 2011.

**Assessment:** While the District has established stability in the superintendency and has appointed a high school principal who stakeholders describe as effective, the District still needs to demonstrate significant improvement in student achievement (see Appendix A for achievement data); needs to provide an approvable School Improvement Grant application and needs to continue its progress in accurate data collection and reporting. In light of these continuing challenges related to the District's academic program, the Commissioner and Department staff have determined that the District has not demonstrated sufficient improvement to warrant termination of the Commissioner's oversight of the Superintendent and the District's educational program at this time.

3. Fiscal Oversight - Appointment of a Fiscal Administrator - a new fiscal administrator was appointed on July 1, 2010, based on the scope of duties set forth by law and the Commissioner. The fiscal administrator provides progress reports to the Department on a monthly basis. Further, the Department required and the District has submitted a five-year fiscal plan.

**Assessment:** While the district has made considerable progress in the management of its fiscal resources, there is an ongoing need for strong fiscal administration and accountability to ensure district stability to meet the challenges of the current and upcoming school years, particularly the loss of six million dollars in State aid in the current year and the projected loss in the 2011-12 year.

## Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents endorse the Commissioner's continued oversight of the District until at least June 30, 2012 through the following actions:

- Periodic visitation of the District and continued monitoring of the board of education by the Commissioner and/or his designee(s) with quarterly reports to the Board of Regents;
- Extension of the Superintendent's contract for an additional year in accordance with the terms and conditions therein and relevant provisions of law;
- Monitoring the implementation of Education Law §3012-c (Teacher and Principal evaluation system) and provision of technical assistance as needed;
- Provision of technical assistance in the completion of and, if approved, implementation of a School Improvement Grant at the high school.
- Provision of technical assistance in the collection and reporting of district and school level data.
- Continue the fiscal oversight authority, including the appointment of a fiscal administrator, until June 30, 2012 with an option for a one year extension. The fiscal administrator will continue to provide progress reports to the Department on a quarterly basis.

Prior to June 30, 2012, the Commissioner will re-evaluate the District's fiscal and academic progress and make an assessment whether to recommend to the Board of Regents that his oversight should be further extended for an additional year, until June 30, 2013.

## Appendix A

### Percentage of Students in Roosevelt CSD Scoring at or Above Level 3 on Grades 3- 8 ELA and Math Exams

<b>ELA</b>						
<b>Grade</b>	<b>2007 - 2008</b>		<b>2008 - 2009</b>		<b>2009 – 2010*</b>	
	District	State	District	State	District	State
<b>3</b>	77	70	76	76	34	55
<b>4</b>	81	71	86	77	34	57
<b>5</b>	85	78	89	82	34	52
<b>6</b>	65	67	72	81	34	54
<b>7</b>	60	70	61	80	27	50
<b>8</b>	42	56	60	69	35	51
<b>MATH</b>						
<b>Grade</b>	<b>2007 - 2008</b>		<b>2008 - 2009</b>		<b>2009 – 2010*</b>	
	District	State	District	State	District	State
<b>3</b>	90	90	90	93	41	59
<b>4</b>	87	84	90	87	42	64
<b>5</b>	89	83	94	88	39	65
<b>6</b>	67	79	58	83	11	61
<b>7</b>	52	79	60	87	17	62
<b>8</b>	54	70	68	80	19	55

- Based on new proficiency standards

## Roosevelt Union Free School District Review of 2005 Cohort Graduation Rate Data Summary

The New York State report card is generated from data reported to the Student Information Repository System (SIRS). Graduation rates reported, based on SIRS data, take into account the number of graduates reported by the District and the total cohort. The total cohort is the number of students that entered grade nine in a particular year minus students that transferred to another district or left the United States. The number of graduates is then divided by the total cohort to arrive at the graduation rate.

Department audit staff were asked to review the graduation data at the Roosevelt Union Free School District. The request was made because of inconsistencies in data reported among the 2003, 2004, and 2005 cohort years. The 2005 cohort year is critical since the reported 60 percent graduation rate for that year caused the District to be removed from Persistently Lowest Achieving designation.

The documentation to support the data reported to SIRS was reviewed at the District to determine if it supported the graduation rate. As shown on the table below data supports a School District Graduation rate of 50.2 percent.

### Comparison of Roosevelt Union Free School District Data Report to SIRS and Supporting Documentation

	<b>SIRS</b>	<b>Audit</b>
Accountability Cohort	243	243
<b>Exclusions:</b>		
transfer to another NYS public school outside district	10	5
transfer to a NYS nonpublic school	2	0
transfer to a school outside NYS	11	5
transfer outside of district by court order	1	0
left the US	1	0
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Total Cohort	218	233
Graduates	128	117
Graduation Rate		50.2%

District files did not include documentation to support all of the transfers. In addition, for 11 students there was no documentation that each respective student had met all of the requirements for graduation.