



**TO:** P-12 Education Committee

**FROM:** Elizabeth R. Berlin *Elizabeth R Berlin*

**SUBJECT:** ESSA Financial Transparency Requirement

**DATE:** July 2, 2019

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *MaryEllen Elia*

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issues for Discussion**

Staff will provide an update on the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Financial Transparency Requirement, as previously discussed at the April meeting.

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

Update.

#### **Proposed Handling**

Discussion.

#### **Background Information**

Beginning with financial data from the 2018-19 school year—to be reported in early 2020—all school districts and charter schools will be required to submit a financial transparency report for inclusion in its report card that provides “the per-pupil expenditures of Federal, State, and local funds, including actual personnel expenditures and actual non-personnel expenditures of Federal, State, and local funds, disaggregated by source of funds.” All school districts will report per pupil expenditures for each of its schools, pursuant to guidelines developed by the Department. This requirement under ESSA will provide important opportunities for school districts, parents, taxpayers, the State, and other stakeholders to cultivate a better understanding of school finances and help spur local discussions about transparency,

equity, accountability, confirmation of best practices, and opportunities for improvements.

Over the past fourteen months, the Department has undertaken a rigorous approach of outreach to stakeholders to develop a report template and uniform guidance in submitting expenditure data. Preliminary draft guidance was published in May, and stakeholders have been given until July 17<sup>th</sup> to review the document and provide feedback for recommended amendments and improvements. Final guidance will be issued following that period, with all reporting expected to be completed by early 2020.

### **Related Regents Items**

#### [March 2017 Update](#)

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/Full%20Board%20-%20Monday%20--%20Every%20Student%20Succeeds%20Act%20Financial%20Transparency%20Requirement.pdf>

#### [April 2019 Board Update](#)

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/P-12%20Education%20-%20Every%20Student%20Succeeds%20Act%20-%20Financial%20Transparency%20Requirement.pdf>