**NY Mills District Focus Forum: March 9, 2016**

**Designation Questions**

Are we still a school in good standing (versus being a focus district?)

Yes, we are a focus district. Our buildings are not identified individually.

With this data that we are using, how do they account for 8th graders that move onto 9th or 2nd graders that are now 3rd graders?

This work is systemic Grades, K – 12.

Focus district is our label now, if it continues, what are our worst case scenarios?

What does a receivership of a district look like, can that happen to us? Do I understand correctly that priority would follow, then receivership after our new identification?

DTSDE process – parent forum presentation 3/28/2016  
  
Why are we a focus district and not focus schools?

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/ESEAMaterials.html>

So based on SWD’s numbers that is why we are focus district? So—for students, who can’t pass the test, are expected to pass the test, we are a focus district? Yes, the school district was identified as a result of

Per 3/9/16 Parent Forum PowerPoint

Could more tests taken have kept SWD from being suppressed on the 10% increase? Weighting the average from the year before makes it very difficult to increase 10%

This is a component of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver. <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/ESEAFlexibilityWaiver.html>

If there is a subgroup that is targeted as the cause of our district being designated as a focus district, how does opting out if it does, compound the issue?

See N.4  
http://p12.nysed.gov/accountability/documents/FrequentlyAskedQuestions022616.pdf

**Participation Rates**

Regarding participation rate, what if no one took the test?  
*According to Ira Shwartz’ response to an email dated 3/14/2016:*

*It is correct that under our ESEA Flexibility waiver, we cannot take districts off of the Focus District list if they do not meet the participation rate requirement.  This is something USDE mandates of us.  However, we may have more flexibility once we transition to ESSA, which could begin as early as 2016-17 school year results.  (pp. 132 of ESEA Flexibility Waiver)*

What do you think would happen if we had 100% opt out rate?

See previous question’s response.

If they don’t have the data to hold against us, how can we know they will turn us into focus schools?

We need to meet both the performance and participation requirements in order to be removed from Focus District designation; however, Focus Districts don’t necessarily “turn into” Focus Schools.

What if everyone took the test?

If everyone took the test, we would make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for participation, but we would still need to meet performance criteria in order to be removed from the list of Focus Districts.

When you say 98-99% participation rate, is this just NYMs? So we’ve dropped from100% to 22%?

See 3/9/16 Parent Forum PowerPoint.

Why does the data need to bring in two years of participation?

See 3/9/16 Parent Forum Powerpoint.

What is the reason that a student’s score is invalid?

See <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/sam/ei/eisam16.pdf>

**Student Support**

What’s being done to help the students with low scores from the group(s) that didn’t make it?

RtI Tier 1 interventions in the classroom, Academic Intervention Services,

We will embark on an extensive district-led review using DTSDE (Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness). See <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/diagnostic-tool-institute/DTSDEInstitute.html>

**Community Concern/opinions**

Parents were told that the test wouldn’t determine who is placed in AIS but she feels that it was the only consideration. (Feels this is the reason for the large opt out rate.)

See current NYSED regulations (updated October 2015) regarding Academic Intervention Services (AIS) at

[**http://www.p12.nysed.gov/part100/pages/1002.html#ee**](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/part100/pages/1002.html#ee)

The Board of Regents is currently considering changes to AIS requirements for 2016-17.

See [**http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/P-12%20-%20Academic%20Intervention%20Services.pdf**](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/P-12%20-%20Academic%20Intervention%20Services.pdf)

How did Rome city School District come off the Focus District list and is now listed as a district “In Good Standing” if they did not meet the 95% participation criteria?

“When a District is already identified, removal depends on meeting performance and participation criteria for two years in a row. Back in 2012-13, Rome School District was identified as a Focus District based on the 10-11 assessments. The district and all schools needed to meet both the performance and participation rate criteria in 12-13 and 13-14 to be removed. Since the district and all schools did not meet both the performance and participation rate criteria they were not removed. The old identification cycle ended with the 215-16 school year.

Under the renewed ESEA Waiver, NYSED was required to identify new Focus Districts and focus Schools using the 2014-15 assessment results. For identification, only performance is considered, not participation rate. Rome City SD did not meet the criteria for identification based on 14-15 assessments. To say Rome City SD was removed from Focus Status is not fully correct. The correct statement is Rome City SD did not meet the new cut points of Focus District identification. On the contrary, if Rome City SD had any subgroups with Performance Index or Graduation Rate at or below the cut points (and not meeting progress filters) then it would have been identified, even if the participation rate was 100%. The Focus methodology documents are posted here: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/ESEAMaterials.html>

*Shibu Joseph, NYSED Account Info*