Using Data to Improve Student Outcomes: New York City's Children First Reforms

Testimony of James S. Liebman Simon H. Rifkind Professor Columbia Law School Chief Accountability Officer, NYC Dep't of Education, 2006-09

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NYC'S Children First Reforms

- Leadership: An organization needs great leaders at all levels to be successful. Principals are key school-based decision makers and they must be empowered to make informed decisions and take smart risks. They, in turn, empower teachers to share in the instructional leadership of the school
- Empowerment: This means giving the people best equipped to make decisions the freedom they need to decide and the tools they need to make informed decisions—and then hold them accountable for helping each student make progress. Principals have also gained control over increased devolved funds.
- <u>Accountability and Achievement Resources</u>: Empowerment and accountability are mutually reinforcing principles. Empowered principals have the authority they need to make key decisions, and in return, agree to be held accountable for the learning outcomes of their students. Accountability includes the support and resources educators need in order to accelerate the learning of all children.

Accountability and Achievement Resources

WHAT	EVALUATE	ENFORCE CONSEQUENCES	ENABLE
HOW	 Progress Reports Schools graded A-F each year based on student outcomes Quality Reviews Scores based on quality of strategies for improved outcomes Learning Environment Survey Parent, teacher, and student surveys about school environment Federal and State Evaluation Measures of schools' Adequate Yearly Progress and accountability standing 	Rewards Monetary bonuses Consequences Immediate restructuring of chronically failing schools. Target setting for other D/F schools; if no improvement, leadership change after 2 and closure after 4 years Aligned Mechanisms City and school-network performance targets, Principals' Performance Review and bonuses, school-wide teacher performance bonuses	 Periodic Assessments Diagnose and track progress Achievement Reporting and Innovation System (ARIS - Data) Fully integrated knowledge and data management Knowledge Management (ARIS - Resources) Support structures and tools for collaboration and knowledge sharing Children First Intensive Hands-on data training through Inquiry Teams

Enabling Improved Learning Outcomes: Inquiry Teams



More NYC Students Are Meeting or Exceeding State Standards, and NYC Has Closed the Gap Considerably with the Rest of the State

(NYC is 73% Black/ Hispanic, 84% low income; Rest of State is 23% Black/ Hispanic, 31% low income*)



Note: Results reflect State tests in grades 4 and 8 from 2002-2005 and grades 3 -8 from 2006-09. State tests were rescaled in 2005/06 as well as expanded to include all grades 3-8. State testing policy changed in 2006/07 to include more ELL students in the English Language Arts test.

"ROOM TO GROW" CANNOT EXPLAIN ALL OF NYC'S GAINS: NYC OUTPACED OTHER BIG NY CITIES THAT HAD MORE ROOM TO GROW

Gap Between NYC & Big 4 in Percent of Students Meeting or Exceeding State Standards



Note: Big 4 = Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers.

Change in Graduation Rates (State Graduation Rate) in New York City Compared to Change Elsewhere in New York State, 2005-2009

Percentage of Students Graduating with Regents or Local Diploma <u>After 4 Years</u>

Results Through June 2009, All Students



■ 2001 Cohort ■ 2002 Cohort ■ 2003 Cohort ■ 2004 Cohort ■ 2005 Cohort

Changing the Way Educators Work: 'ARIS'

Achievement Reporting and Innovation System



ARIS Data Warehouse and Content Repository





- ARIS provides one place where all critical data and knowledge resources can be easily viewed and used by all NYC DOE educators
- + ARIS uses nightly feeds from all NYC DOE academic data systems to generate up-to-date reports that identify student needs and facilitate daily planning
- + By organizing data and sharing quality content, ARIS saves teacher time in compiling information from multiple sources, preparing their classes and meeting the challenges that particular students present
- + By making it easy for educators to contribute content, work together to design solutions, and comment on the quality of available instructional resources, ARIS expands teachers' knowledge base and role in the leadership of our schools

Protecting Student Data



The ability to log in to ARIS does not automatically provide access to private student-level data. Federal law limits who may view that information.

Teachers automatically have access to information on the students enrolled in their classes.

Principals automatically have access to information on students enrolled in their school.

If you are a school staff member, your principal can grant you access to student-level information if there is a legitimate educational need for you to see that data.

If you are a central staff member, your central office may grant you access to certain students' information if you have a legitimate educational need to see the information. Please ask your office's ARIS Liaison for help in determining whether access can be provided.

My Students: 3-8 English Language Arts View

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My Students: High School Graduation Requirements View

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Aggregate Data

The Aggregate School View displays key performance metrics and some administrative information for educators who work with multiple schools.

Principals see similar data for their own school. Teachers can see their own classes.

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Customizable Reports



ARIS Connect

•Key knowledge is developed locally in individual schools in response to problems presented by individual students and groups of students.

•Connect enables collaboration through web 2.0 tools (wikis, blogs, discussion forums, communities) so that educators can share and refine best practices – describe what worked (or did not) when they tried to solve a similar problem. Provides:

- The framework for ongoing sharing of outcomes and learning across teams, across schools, and across the city.
- A forum for discussion of instructional practices, through public and private communities
- A library of instructional resources, many tagged to specific state standards.



ARIS Parent Link: Log In

	ARIS Parent Link	English Español 中文 한국어 Kreyól Aytsyen آلمرية Русский বাংশা 년 년국어 Holp	
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	Login Password Help Security Guidelines	to protect your rolid's private information. How to get a Student ID and Password.	9 NYC DOE Languages
	Welcome to ARIS Parent Link	<text><text><image/><image/><text></text></text></text>	
	REMINDER: Confidentiality of student data is protected by f	federal law. Do not re-transmit it in any form. Use of ARIS Parent Link is limited to the single	

Parents can log on at: www.arisparentlink.org

ARIS Parent Link: Welcome



Customized Parent Walkthroughs



Building Data Systems: Lessons Learned

• Quality of Vendor

- Shared vision with business owner
- Quality product management (commitment to user perspective)
- Quality project management (expertise to manage across groups, perspectives)
- Trust but verify

Internal Partners

- Shared vision, commitment to problem-solving not just "question answering"
- Attention to differences in business and technology perspectives
- Clear, detailed understanding of expectations, dependencies

• User Perspective

- Best revealed through actual use; need flexibility to change
- Key an eye on tools users adopt "in the meantime"
- Each tool creates demand for new ones; need flexibility to meet new demand
- Data Sources: each one will be a bigger battle than you expect
- Deployment
 - Don't underestimate the task it's not the end; it's the beginning
 - Design deployment to learn quickly from problems and complaints
- Professional Development : embed 'data inquiry' in the daily work of schools