STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer

DATE: October 9, 2018

SUBJECT: 2017-18 Next Generation Accountability System Updates

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is preparing the 2017-18 Next Generation Accountability results in anticipation of a December release. The following changes will be incorporated in the 2017-18 results due in part to the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Connecticut's approved ESSA plan.

- Indicator 1, Academic Achievement, will <u>not</u> include results for Science in 2017-18 because Connecticut administered a field test to all students in lieu of the CMT/CAPT science assessments and no scores were issued from the field test for students, schools, or districts. However, participation in the science field test will continue to be used as a factor in school categorization decisions.

- The CSDE had anticipated including growth toward English language proficiency (ELP) for English learners as a component of Indicator 2, Academic Growth, in 2017-18 accountability calculations and reporting. In light of the transition to computer-based ELP testing in 2017-18, the CSDE is delaying incorporation of ELP growth in accountability until the 2018-19 results. Please note that reports on ELP achievement, ELP growth, and English language mastery are now available on EdSight public and EdSight Secure. The 2017-18 data will serve as the baseline for measuring ELP growth in 2018-19 accountability reports.

- Beginning with the 2017-18 accountability calculations, the CSDE will start using criterion-referenced cut scores on the Accountability Index in the school categorization process. These cut scores were selected using an analysis of past performance after consultation with stakeholder groups. They are designed to be ambitious yet achievable cut scores while providing a consistent target for schools and districts.

  Schools with Accountability Index scores of 85 or higher will be placed *initially* in Category 1; scores below 85 but greater than or equal to 70 will be placed *initially* in Category 2; and scores below 70 will be placed *initially* in Category 3. As in prior years, low participation rates, achievement gaps, graduation rate gaps, and identification as a Turnaround or Focus school may result in a lower school category than the initial assignment.

- With the release of the 2017-18 results, the CSDE will identify a new set of Turnaround and Focus Schools. Turnaround Schools are those with low overall performance while Focus schools are those with consistently lagging academic achievement, growth, or graduation rates for the high needs group. The specific methodology for identification is outlined on pages 48 and 49 of our ESSA Plan. Schools that are newly identified as Turnaround or Focus Schools in 2018-19 will be placed in Category 4. Previously identified Turnaround or Focus schools that are re-identified in 2018-19 as Turnaround or Focus will be placed in Category 5. Previously identified Turnaround or Focus Schools that are not identified as either will be exited and placed in Categories 1, 2, or 3.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Renee Savoie at 860-713-6858 or Renee.Savoie@ct.gov. Thank you.