

Task 6. Additional Requirements (Teachers)

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Please note, within this section, tasks 6.2 (improvement plan), 6.4 (appeals language) and 6.6 (training language) may contain information from your plan as it existed on June 2, 2015.* The remaining tasks in this section will not contain data from your previous plan and must be completed. Additionally, task 6.6 must be modified to address training of independent evaluators and, as applicable, peer observers.

* Please note that documents and language will not be pre-populated into the plan if your district/BOCES chose to start with a blank application.

For more information on the additional requirements for teachers, see NYSED APPR Guidance: <https://www.engageny.org/resource/appr-3012-d>.

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6.1) Assurances: Teacher Improvement Plans

Assure that the district/BOCES will formulate and commence implementation of a Teacher Improvement Plan (TIP) for all teachers who receive a Developing or Ineffective rating by October 1 following the school year for which such teacher's performance is being measured or as soon as practicable thereafter.	Checked
Assure that TIP plans developed and implemented by the superintendent or his/her designee, in the exercise of his/her pedagogical judgment, shall include: identification of needed areas of improvement, a timeline for achieving improvement, the manner in which the improvement will be assessed, and, where appropriate, differentiated activities to support a teacher's improvement in those areas.	Checked

6.2) Attachment: Teacher Improvement Plan Forms

As a required attachment to this APPR plan, upload the TIP forms that are used in the school district/BOCES. All TIP plans developed and implemented by the superintendent or his/her designee, in the exercise of his/her pedagogical judgment, must include:

- 1) identification of needed areas of improvement;
- 2) a timeline for achieving improvement;
- 3) the manner in which the improvement will be assessed; and, where appropriate,
- 4) differentiated activities to support a teacher's improvement in those areas.

For a list of supported file types, go to the Resources folder (above) and click Technical Tips. Please be sure to update a document with a form layout, with fillable spaces and not just a narrative.

https://NYSED-APPR3.fluidreview.com/media/assets/survey-uploads/49388/4060694-Df0w3Xx5v6/TIP%20Plan%20form_bCVPDMY.docx

6.3) Assurance: Appeals

Please check the box below:

Assure the district/BOCES has appeal procedures that are consistent with the regulations and that they provide for the timely and expeditious resolution of an appeal.	Checked
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6.4) Appeals

Pursuant to Education Law §3012-d, a teacher may only challenge the following in an appeal:

- (1) the substance of the annual professional performance review; which shall include the following:
- (i) in the instance of a teacher rated Ineffective on the Student Performance category, but rated Highly Effective on the Observation category based on an anomaly, as determined locally;
- (2) the school district's/BOCES' adherence to the standards and methodologies required for such reviews, pursuant to Education Law §3012-d; and
- (3) the adherence to the regulations of the Commissioner and compliance with any applicable locally negotiated procedures, as well as the school district's/BOCES' issuance and/or implementation of the terms of the teacher or principal improvement plan, as required under Education Law §3012-d.

Describe the procedure for ensuring that appeals of annual performance evaluations will be handled in a timely and expeditious way:

To the extent that a teacher wishes to challenge a performance review and/or improvement plan under the new evaluation system, the law requires the establishment of an appeals procedure, the specifics of which are to be locally negotiated pursuant to article XIV of the Civil Service Law.

APPEALS OF INEFFECTIVE RATINGS ONLY

Appeals of annual professional performance reviews should be limited to those that rate a teacher as Ineffective only.

WHAT MAY BE CHALLENGED IN AN APPEAL

Appeal procedures should limit the scope of appeals under Education Law §3012-d to the following subjects:

1. the school district's or board of cooperative educational services' adherence to the standards and methodologies required for such reviews, pursuant to Education Law §3012-d;
2. the adherence to the Commissioner's regulations, as applicable to such reviews;
3. compliance with any applicable locally negotiated procedures applicable to annual professional performance reviews or improvement plans; and
4. the school district's or board of cooperative educational services' issuance and/or implementation of terms of the teacher improvement plan under Education Law §3012-d

PROHIBITION AGAINST MORE THAN ONE APPEAL

A teacher may not file multiple appeals regarding the same performance review or teacher improvement plan. All grounds for appeal must be raised with specificity within one appeal. Any grounds not raised at the time the appeal is filed shall be deemed waived.

BURDEN OF PROOF

In an appeal, the teacher has the burden of demonstrating a clear legal right to the relief requested and the burden of establishing the facts upon which petitioner seeks relief.

TIMEFRAME FOR FILING APPEAL

All appeals must be submitted in writing no later than 15 calendar days of the date when the teacher receives his or her annual professional performance review. If a teacher is challenging the issuance of a teacher improvement plan, appeals must be filed with 15 days of issuance of such plan. The failure to file an appeal within these timeframes shall be deemed a waiver of the right to appeal and the appeal shall be deemed abandoned.

When filing an appeal, the teacher must submit a detailed written description of the specific areas of disagreement over his or her performance review, or the issuance and/or implementation of the terms of his or her improvement plan and any additional documents or materials relevant to the appeal. The performance review and/or improvement plan being challenged must also be submitted with the appeal. Any information not submitted at the time the appeal is filed shall not be considered.

TIMEFRAME FOR DISTRICT RESPONSE

Within 15 calendar days of receipt of an appeal, the school district member(s) who issued the performance review or were or are responsible for either the issuance and/or implementation of the terms of the teacher's improvement plan must submit a detailed written response to the appeal. The response must include any and all additional documents or written materials specific to the point(s) of disagreement that support the school district's response and are relevant to the resolution of the appeal. Any such information that is not submitted at the time the

response is filed shall not be considered in the deliberations related to the resolution of the appeal. The teacher initiating the appeal shall receive a copy of the response filed by the school district, and all additional information submitted with the response, at the same time the school district files its response.

DECISION-MAKER ON APPEAL

All decisions shall be rendered by the BOCES District Superintendent of Schools.

DECISION

A written decision on the merits of the appeal shall be rendered no later than thirty (30) calendar days from the date upon which the teacher filed his or her appeal. The appeal shall be based on a written record, comprised of the teacher's appeal papers and any documentary evidence accompanying the appeal, as well as the school district's response to the appeal and additional documentary evidence submitted with such papers. Such decision shall be final.

A decision shall be set forth the reasons and factual basis for each determination on each of the specific issues raised in the teacher's appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the reviewer may set aside a rating if it has been affected by substantial error or defect, modify a rating if it is affected by substantial error defect or order a new evaluation if procedures have been violated. A copy of the decision shall be provided to the teacher and the evaluator or the person responsible for either issuing or implementing the terms of an improvement plan, if that person is different.

EXCLUSIVITY OF §3012-D APPEAL PROCEDURE

The 3012-d appeal procedure shall constitute the exclusive means for initiating, reviewing and resolving any and all challenges and appeals related to a teacher performance review and/or improvement plan. A teacher may not resort to any other contractual grievance procedures for the resolution of challenges and appeals related to a professional performance review and/or improvement plans, except as otherwise authorized by law.

6.5) Assurance: Evaluators

The district/BOCES assures that all evaluators will be properly trained and lead evaluators will be certified on the below elements prior to completing a teacher's evaluation. Note: independent observers and peer observers need only be trained on elements 1, 2, and 4 below.

Checked

- (1) The New York State Teaching Standards, and their related elements and performance indicators and the Leadership Standards and their related functions, as applicable
- (2) Evidence-based observation techniques that are grounded in research
- (3) Application and use of the student growth percentile model and any other growth model approved by the Department as defined in section 30-3.2 of this Subpart
- (4) Application and use of the State-approved teacher rubric(s) selected by the district/BOCES for use in evaluations, including training on the effective application of such rubrics to observe a teacher's practice
- (5) Application and use of any assessment tools that the school district/BOCES utilizes to evaluate its classroom teachers
- (6) Application and use of any locally selected measures of student growth used in the Optional subcomponent of the Student Performance category used by the district/BOCES to evaluate its teachers
- (7) Use of the Statewide Instructional Reporting System

(8) The scoring methodology utilized by the Department and/or the district/BOCES to evaluate a teacher under this Subpart, including the weightings of each subcomponent within a category; how overall scores/ratings are generated for each subcomponent and category and application and use of the evaluation matrix(es) prescribed by the Commissioner for the four designated rating categories used for the teacher's overall rating and their category ratings

(9) Specific considerations in evaluating teachers of English language learners and students with disabilities

6.6) Training of Lead Evaluators, Evaluators, Independent Observers, and Peer Observers and Certification of Lead Evaluators

Describe the process for training evaluators, including impartial and independent observers and peer observers, and certifying and re-certifying lead evaluators. Your description must include:

- 1) the process for training lead evaluators and evaluators, including impartial independent observers and peer observers,
- 2) the process for the certification and re-certification of lead evaluators,
- 3) the process for ensuring inter-rater reliability,
- 4) the nature (content) and the duration (how many hours, days) of such training.

The Sherman Central School District shall ensure that evaluators, including impartial and independent observers, have appropriate training before conducting a teacher or principal's evaluation under this section. The District shall also ensure that any lead evaluator has been certified by the superintendent as a qualified lead evaluator before conducting and/or completing a teacher's or principal's evaluation in accordance with the requirements of this Subpart, except as otherwise provided in this subdivision. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit a lead evaluator who is properly certified by the department as a school administrator or superintendent of schools from conducting classroom observations or school visits as part of an annual professional performance review under this Subpart prior to completion of the training required by this section provided such training is successfully completed prior to completion of the evaluation.

To qualify for certification as a lead evaluator, individuals shall successfully complete a training course that meets the minimum requirements prescribed in this subdivision. The training course shall provide training on:

- (1) the New York State teaching standards and their related elements and performance indicators and the leadership standards and their related functions, as applicable;
- (2) evidence-based observation techniques that are grounded in research;
- (3) application and use of the student growth percentile model and any other growth model approved by the department as defined in section 30-3.2 of this Subpart;
- (4) application and use of the State-approved teacher or principal rubric(s) selected by the district for use in evaluations, including training on the effective application of such rubrics to observe a teacher or principal's practice;
- (5) application and use of any assessment tools that the district utilizes to evaluate its classroom teachers or building principals;
- (6) application and use of any locally selected measures of student growth used in the optional subcomponent of the student performance category used by the district to evaluate its teachers or principals;
- (7) use of the statewide instructional reporting system;
- (8) the scoring methodology utilized by the department and/or the district to evaluate a teacher or principal under this Subpart, including the weightings of each subcomponent within a category; how overall scores/ratings are generated for each subcomponent and category and application and use of the evaluation matrix(es) prescribed by the commissioner for the four designated rating categories used for the teacher's or principal's overall rating and their category ratings; and
- (9) specific considerations in evaluating teachers and principals of English language learners and students with disabilities.

(c) Independent evaluators shall receive training on the following elements:

- (1) the New York State teaching standards and their related elements and performance indicators and the leadership standards and their related functions, as applicable;
- (2) evidence-based observation techniques that are grounded in research; and
- (3) application and use of the State-approved teacher or principal rubric(s) selected by the district for use in evaluations, including training on the effective application of such rubrics to observe a teacher or principal's practice;

(d) Training shall be designed to certify lead evaluators.

Districts shall describe in their annual professional performance review plan the duration and nature of the training they provide to evaluators and lead evaluators and their process for certifying lead evaluators under this section.

(e) Districts shall also describe in their annual professional performance review plan their process for ensuring that all evaluators maintain inter-rater reliability over time (such as data analysis to detect disparities on the part of one or more evaluators; periodic comparisons of a lead evaluator's assessment with another evaluator's assessment of the same classroom teacher or building principal; annual calibration sessions across evaluators) and their process for periodically recertifying all evaluators.

(f) Any individual who fails to receive required training or achieve certification or re-certification, as applicable, by a district pursuant to the requirements of this section shall not conduct or complete an evaluation under this Subpart.

Sherman Central School will ensure that all Lead Evaluators/Independent Evaluators are properly certified and training to complete an individual performance review. The 3 day training will be provided by the Erie 2 BOCES Network Team who are authorized to train on behalf of an evaluation rubric approved by NYSED. The Superintendent will certify evaluators and maintain records of certification of evaluators. The district will maintain a process of inter-rater reliability in accordance with NYSED guidance and protocols including data analysis, periodic comparison of assessments, and/or calibration across evaluators.

Sherman Central School will work to ensure that evaluators maintain inter-rater reliability over time and that they are re-certified on an annual basis and receive updated training on any changes in law, regulation, or applicable collective bargaining agreements.

THESE TRAINING ARE ONGOING AND WILL BE ATTENDED BY ADMINISTRATION AS REQUIRED.

6.7) Assurances: Teacher Evaluation

Please check all of the boxes below:

Assure that the district/BOCES shall compute and provide to the teacher their score and rating for the Student Performance category, if available, and for the Teacher Observation category for a teacher's Annual Professional Performance Review, in writing, no later than the last school day of the school year for which the teacher is being measured, but in no case later than September 1 of the school year next following the school year for which the teacher's performance is being measured.	Checked
Assure that the evaluation system will be used as a significant factor for employment decisions.	Checked
Assure that teachers will receive timely and constructive feedback as part of the evaluation process.	Checked
Assure that the following prohibited elements listed in Education Law §3012-d(6) are not being used as part of any teacher's evaluation: evidence of student development and performance derived from lesson plans, other artifacts of teacher practice, and student portfolios, except for student portfolios measured by a State-approved rubric where permitted by the Department; use of an instrument for parent or student feedback; use of professional goal-setting as evidence of teacher effectiveness; any district or regionally-developed assessment that has not been approved by the Department; and any growth or achievement target that does not meet the minimum standards as set forth in regulations of the Commissioner.	Checked

6.8) Assurances: Assessments

Please check all of the boxes below:

Assure that, where applicable, if students in Common Core courses are taking both the 2005 Learning Standards and Common Core versions of the Regents Assessment, then the district/BOCES will use the higher of the two scores to determine whether a student has met his/her growth target.	Checked
Assure that the amount of time devoted to traditional standardized assessments that are not specifically required by state or federal law for each classroom or program within a grade level does not exceed, in the aggregate, one percent of the minimum required annual instructional hours for the grade.	Checked
Assure that individuals with vested interest in the outcome of their assessments are not involved, to the extent practicable, in the administration and scoring of those assessments.	Checked

6.9) Assurances: Data

Please check all of the boxes below:

Assure that SED will receive accurate teacher and student data, including enrollment and attendance data, and any other student, teacher, school, course, and teacher/student linkage data necessary to comply with regulations, in a format and timeline prescribed by the Commissioner.	Checked
Assure that the district/BOCES provides an opportunity for every classroom teacher to verify the subjects and/or student rosters assigned to them.	Checked
Assure scores and ratings for all teachers will be reported to NYSED for each category, as well as the overall rating, as per NYSED requirements.	Checked
Assure that enrolled students in accordance with teacher of record policies are included and may not be excluded.	Checked
Assure that procedures for ensuring data accuracy and integrity are being utilized.	Checked