

CFE REPORT ON NEW YORK CITY'S PROPOSED 2007-08 CONTRACT FOR EXCELLENCE

Summary of Analysis

The lack of specificity and transparency has made it difficult to provide anything but a very cursory level of analysis of the NYCDoE Contract. The NYCDoE spreadsheet entitled *C4E by District and School_71608* submitted to the New York State Education Department (SED) on July 16, 2007, does summarize the distribution of the funds on the school level in the five Contract areas, but it does not provide detailed plans for how individual schools propose to spend their money on specific programs and students.

CFE conducted an analysis of the distribution of \$225 million to 857 schools based on available data for performance and poverty. The NYCDoE Contract is for a total of \$258 million; however \$33 million was allocated as District Initiatives to the five Contract areas with no breakout to schools and thus cannot be included in this analysis. Our preliminary findings raise concerns regarding whether the Contract dollars allocated to the schools are being spent predominately on the neediest students in the lowest performing schools.

Significant sums of money are being distributed to high performing schools within high performing districts like CSD 2, CSD 22, CSD 25, and CSD 26. For instance, within CSD 2: almost \$400,000 is allocated to PS 183 which has 80% of its students performing at Level 3 and 4 on the 2007 ELA; JH 167 – a middle school where 71% of the students perform on Level 3 and 4 - has been allocated \$703,000. In CSD 26 – the highest performing district in New York City – PS 26 is receiving \$454,000 and has 83% of its students at Level 3 and 4; Bayside High School – with a 24.4% poverty rate and a 68% graduation rate - is receiving \$1.3 million.

Perhaps what is even more disturbing is a review of specific schools in low performing struggling districts. In CSD 17 (Crown Heights), PS 161 - which has 69% of the students at Level 3 and 4 - and PS 189 - which has 55% of the students meeting standards - are both receiving close to \$400,000 each. Meanwhile, PS 61 – which has only 40% of its student at grade level - is receiving \$22,000 and PS 375 is receiving \$52,000 while only 36% of its students meet standards. In CSD 23 (Ocean Hill—Brownsville), PS 178 is receiving almost \$500,000 yet has 61% of its students meeting standards and IS 392 receiving \$141,000 when 95% of its students meet standards. Inexplicably, PS 150 which has only 31% of its students at Level 3 and 4 has been allocated only \$43,000 while PS 183 is receiving \$59,000 for 824 students where only 32% meet standards. The overall trends in the distribution of the Contract for Excellence dollars are summarized in the tables on the following pages.

Methodology

The Contract documents on the NYCDoE website do not show a school-level distribution of the \$225 million based on poverty and performance. As a result, to conduct our analysis, we extracted data from various sources: for the poverty data we utilized the Excel document NYCDoE issued with the May 8, 2007 Fair Student Funding announcement and also used the New York State Report Cards; for the 2007 ELA data we utilized both the New York State Education Department website and the 2007 ELA results on the DOE website; for graduation rates we utilized the 2005-06 New York State Report Cards. Since NYCDoE combined elementary, middle and high schools on the Contract for Excellence spreadsheet without distinguishing between them, and we do not have adequate information to separate the schools into these categories, we are calculating our results both against the total number of schools and against schools for which we have similar data.

In our analysis we established the following thresholds for ELA results, High School Graduation Rates, and Poverty:

- ELA – Schools that had greater than or equal to 56% of its students performing at Level 3 and 4. (The ELA performance target of 56% reflects the city's overall performance rate.)
- High School Graduation Rate -- Schools that had greater than or equal to 55% of its students graduating within four years. (The Graduation Rate performance target of 55% reflects the State Graduation-Rate Standard.)
- Poverty -- Schools that had less than or equal to 65% of its students eligible for free and reduced priced lunch. (The poverty rate closely approximates Title I.)

Of the 857 schools allocated Contract dollars, 618 had ELA data and 97 had High School Graduation Rate data. Thus, we could analyze 715 of the 857 schools on a performance basis. 778 had Poverty data and 79 schools had no data at all.

BY PERFORMANCE – School with 2007 ELA data

Looking at the number of schools and the dollar amounts.

Total # of schools receiving Contract \$\$	857	
Total Contract \$\$ distributed to these schools		\$ 224,660,014
Schools w/ ELA Data	618	
Contract \$\$ distributed to schools with ELA Data		\$ 161,381,078
Of the 618 schools, the # with at least 56% of students at Level 3/4 on ELA	246	
Contract \$\$ distributed to the 246 schools with at least 56% of students at Level 3/4 on ELA		\$ 68,788,911

Looking at this information on a percentage basis.

Compared to ALL Schools

The 246 schools receiving Contract \$\$ with at least 56% of students at Level 3/4 on ELA as a % of all 857 schools receiving Contract \$\$	246 / 857	28.7%
Contract \$\$ distributed to these 246 schools as a % of all Contract \$\$	\$68,788,911 / \$224,660,014	30.6%

Compared to Schools with ELA Data

The 246 schools receiving Contract \$\$ with at least 56% of students at Level 3/4 on ELA as a % of the 618 schools with ELA Data	246 / 618	39.8%
Contract \$\$ distributed to the 246 schools with at least 56% of students at Level 3/4 on ELA as a % of Contract \$\$ going to the 618 schools with ELA Data	\$ 68,788,911 / \$161,381,078	42.6%

BY PERFORMANCE - Schools with HS Graduation Data reported for 2005-06

Looking at the number of schools and the dollar amounts.

Total # of schools receiving Contract \$\$	857	
Total Contract \$\$ distributed to these schools		\$ 224,660,014

Schools with High School Graduation Data	97	
Contract \$\$ distributed to Subset of schools with HS Graduation Data		\$ 31,787,981

Of the 97 schools, # of schools with a HS Grad Rate of at least 55%	39	
Total Contract \$\$ distributed to the 39 Schools with a HS Grad Rate of at least 55%		\$ 10,596,473

Looking at this information on a percentage basis.

Compared to ALL Schools

The 39 schools receiving Contract \$\$ with HS Grad Rate of at least 55% as a % of all 857 schools receiving Contract \$\$	39 / 857	4.6%
Contract \$\$ distributed to these 39 schools as a % of all Contract \$\$	\$10,596,473 / \$224,660,014	4.7%

Compared to Schools with High School Graduation Data

The 39 schools receiving Contract \$\$ with HS Grad Rate of at least 55% as a % of the 97 schools with HS Grad Data	39 / 97	40.2%
Contract \$\$ distributed to the 39 schools as a % of Contract \$\$ going to the 97 schools with HS Grad Data	\$10,596,473 / \$31,787,981	33.3%

BY POVERTY - based on 2007 NYCDoe Fair Student Funding Documents

Looking at the number of schools and the dollar amounts.

Total # of Schools Receiving Contract \$\$	857	
Total Contract \$\$ distributed to all schools		\$ 224,660,014

Schools with Poverty Data	778	
Contract \$\$ distributed to these 778 schools with Poverty Data		\$ 208,069,408

Of the 778 schools with Poverty Data, # of schools with a Poverty Rate of less than 65%	220	
Contract \$\$ distributed to the 220 schools with a Poverty Rate of less than 65%		\$ 58,556,741

Looking at this information on a percentage basis.

Compared to ALL Schools

The 220 schools receiving Contract \$\$ with Poverty Rate of less than 65% as a % of all 857 schools receiving Contract \$\$	220 / 857	25.7%
Contract \$\$ distributed to the 220 schools with Poverty Rate of less than 65% as a % of all Contract \$\$	\$58,556,741 / \$224,660,014	26.1%

Compared to Schools with Poverty Data

The 220 schools receiving Contract \$\$ with Poverty Rate of less than 65% as a % of the 778 schools with Poverty Data	220 / 778	28.3%
Contract \$\$ distributed to the 220 schools with Poverty Rate of less than 65% as a % Contract \$\$ going to the 778 schools with Poverty Data	\$58,556,741 / \$208,069,408	28.1%