

## **Enrollment and Retention Q&A**

**1. Q: Would all traditional district schools be able to meet the targets for districts in which they are located?**

A. Charter School Enrollment and Retention targets for Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners and Economically Disadvantaged are based on an average of the district population, as reported by district schools. There may be schools within the district that fall above and below the district average. Moreover, neighborhood effects within districts cause certain locations to have higher or lower subgroup populations. Schools' targets are based on an average of the past three years of data, namely 2011-2012, 2012-2013, and 2013-2014 academic years. The targets are intended for charter schools to meet by the end of their charter term. In the event that a school fails to meet its enrollment and/or retention targets, authorizers have the discretion to examine the extent to which the school made an effort to meet them and how particular local challenges hindered the school's progress toward doing so.

**2. Q: Can a student continue to be identified as an English Language Learner for the purposes of E&R target methodology for as long as the child is in the particular school, since they remain eligible for additional services up to three years after declassification?**

A. Each authorizer will set their own policy for how long schools may maintain a student's subgroup classification after being declassified for the purposes of meeting the targets.

**3. Q: Will students in New York City who are identified as students with disabilities, English Language Learners or Economically Disadvantaged students be compared with students in their local CSD instead of the New York City School District as a whole?**

A. The calculator methodology has not changed since it was originally released in 2012 and compares charter school percentages of Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners and Economically Disadvantaged with enrollment percentages in the local CSD at all grade levels, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter Schools Act. Students attending the following schools were omitted from the methodology when calculating the average of the district population: a) Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) schools, b) private schools, including those for students with disabilities or other special education needs, c) District 75 in New York City, and d) PS 42 and PS 84 in Buffalo Public Schools. See, e.g, Education Law §2851(4)(e). See the July 2012 Regents item for more information: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/July2012/712brca11.pdf>

**4. Q: Will the calculator apply to all schools, and not just those that are newly chartered or renewed? Will the calculator be updated frequently?**

A. Each authorizer has the discretion to determine how the calculator will apply to their schools. Updating data each year would cause an ever-shifting target for schools, leaving them unable to determine the target required at the end of the charter term. Each authorizer will also consider demographic shifts that affect a school's compliance with the targets, as well as efforts taken by schools to meet the targets.

**5. Q: How should schools track enrollment and retention target data?**

A. Schools are encouraged to independently keep track of their student enrollment and retention data to determine their progress towards meeting the targets.