

NYS Performance Indicator #4
Required Announcement of the Conclusion of the Review

Positive educational outcomes for all students will always be a priority at Amherst Central School District. In an effort to better meet the needs of all students, the Instructional Action Plan has supported the continued involvement of an initiative regarding the topic of Culturally Responsive Teaching. We specifically examined the particular challenges that African American students face in school and the impact these challenges have on academic achievement.

Consistent with national trends, the District has historically found that our African American male students in particular, have faced disproportionate outcomes in special education identification, educational placement, state test performance, and suspension. To address these concerns, the District has spent the last eight years engaging in on-going, data-based reviews of policies, practices, and procedures. We developed targeted interventions and training to both educate staff and address service provision to improve the achievement for all students in our district. As a result, we obtained positive outcomes in regards to special education identification and placement, which has been reflected in annual reviews of district data.

In the 2012-2013 school year the New York State Education Department's P-12: Office of Special Education conducted a Special Education Quality Assurance (SEQA) Suspension Comprehensive Review. Data representing three or more consecutive years indicated a significant discrepancy in the rate of long-term suspensions of students with disabilities by race/ethnicity. This review examined the District's compliance with selected federal and state laws, and regulations governing the education of students with disabilities. The review process involved an examination of school records, classroom visitations, staff interviews, and other activities.

We are pleased to share that Amherst Central School District was found in compliance, having completed all corrective actions in the Compliance Assurance Plan. Any identified areas of non-compliance have now been resolved. Although the review focused on disproportionate outcomes based on race/ethnicity, the District also remains committed to improving social outcomes and disciplinary needs for all students.

Further information, including a copy of the report may be obtained by contacting the Office of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services at Amherst Central Schools.