BCSD prepares for the release of evaluation data

The Berlin Central School District is preparing for the release of data related to the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) of teachers and principals.

While teachers and principals have always been evaluated by supervisors, evaluations now must include student achievement and growth data. Creating a statewide evaluation system linked to student performance was mandated by a law (Education Law section 3012-c) passed as part of New York’s successful Race to the Top (RTTT) application. It was included as part of the state’s agreement with the state teachers’ union and the district’s subsequent agreement with its teachers’ union. Please visit our school district’s website for a copy of [our APPR plan](http://www.berlincentral.org/files/_tVJ3C_/541ac571a86dea913745a49013852ec4/berlin-appr-plan.pdf).

The new teacher and principal evaluation system is one of a number of statewide initiatives to improve student performance and assure that all students graduate from high school both college and career ready. Other initiatives include New York’s participation in the Common Core Standards, adoption of new teaching standards, and application of leadership standards for principals.

For many teachers and principals in grades 3-8, the student achievement and growth components of the new evaluation system will be based upon student performance on new state assessments aligned to the New York State Common Core Learning Standards.

In addition to being part of teacher and principal evaluations, the results from the new state assessments will provide our district and schools with baseline data of how our staff and students are doing in comparison to the Common Core Learning Standards. The tests measure our students’ grade-by-grade progress toward college and career readiness, based on alignment with the [Common Core Learning Standards](http://www.questar.org/StaffDevelopment/common_core_standards.php) adopted by New York and 44 other states.

In a memo from the State Education Department, Deputy Commissioner Ken Slentz estimated that test scores will decrease compared to previous year’s results. This is due to the changes in the exam and its higher standards.

We understand that this news, along with changes to the curriculum and state tests may be disconcerting. However, please understand the number of students meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations should not be interpreted as a decline in student learning or teacher performance. It does, however, reflect a change in how the state tests have changed, and how we teach students on the new Standards.

The New York State Education Department releases performance review data for teachers and principals by building and/or district. Individual teacher or principal performance review data is not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Law. Our district may only disclose the final quality rating —High Effective, Effective, Developing and Ineffective, or “HEDI”— and overall effectiveness score (between 0 and 100) for a teacher and/or building principal assigned to a student for the current school year upon appropriate request of the student’s parents or guardians. A parent or guardian may request this information by completing a request form and mailing it to Dr. Stephen Young, BCSD Superintendent, PO Box 259, Cherry Plain, NY 12040.

Click here for a shortcut to the forms: [APPR Score Request Form](http://www.berlincentral.org/files/_tVKU4_/2a980557963ce6583745a49013852ec4/BCSD_Request_for_APPR_Scores.docx)

If you have any questions, please contact your child’s principal. Please visit [engageny.org](http://www.engageny.org/) to access a variety of resources on APPR and the Common Core, including videos and print materials.