Technical Appendix

Most of the data used in this report comes from publicly available data sets. For this report, 2014-15 data was used to present analyses using comparable time periods to the extent possible. More recent data may be available for student characteristics and outcomes, and school environment.

Regions Used in this Report

New York's counties are grouped into regions as indicated in the table below.

Capital District	Central New York	Finger Lakes	Long Island	Mid-Hudson	Mohawk Valley	North Country	Southern Tier	Western New York
Albany	Cayuga	Genesee	Nassau	Dutchess	Fulton	Clinton	Broome	Allegany
Columbia	Cortland	Livingston	Suffolk	Orange	Hamilton	Essex	Chemung	Cattaraugus
Greene	Madison	Monroe		Putnam	Herkimer	Franklin	Chenango	Chautauqua
Rensselaer	Onondaga	Ontario		Rockland	Montgomery	Jefferson	Delaware	Erie
Saratoga	Oswego	Orleans		Sullivan	Oneida	Lewis	Otsego	Niagara
Schenectady		Seneca		Ulster	Schoharie	St. Lawrence	Schuyler	
Warren		Wayne		Westchester			Steuben	
Washington		Wyoming					Tioga	
		Yates					Tompkins	

School District Finances

School District Fiscal Profiles

Most figures for expenditures, revenues, measures of district fiscal capacity, and other data relating to school finances in this report come from the State Education Department's (SED) Fiscal Profiles data reports. Each year, SED compiles a report providing detailed district-level financial data organized to inform school finance policymaking. The annual reports, going back to the 1993-94 school year, are available at: www.oms.nysed.gov/faru/Profiles/profiles_cover.html. The "Appendix" contains explanations of the data sources and definitions of the data elements.

Details on Selected Data Elements and Concepts

Taken from *School District Fiscal Profiles* unless otherwise noted:

Combined Wealth Ratio: The State Education Department uses the Combined Wealth Ratio (CWR) in some State aid formula calculations. It is intended to serve as a measure of school districts' fiscal capacity (their ability to fund public education using local resources). The CWR is based equally on property wealth per pupil and income wealth per pupil compared to the statewide average. For a fuller description of the CWR, see the State Education Department, "Appendix" to the School District Fiscal Profiles, available at: www.oms.nysed.gov/faru/PDFDocuments/FARUWEBSITEFISCALAPPENDIX.pdf.

Duplicated Combined Adjusted Average Daily Membership (DCAADM): State aid formulas and education policymakers use different pupil counts for different purposes. The Fiscal Profiles use the DCAADM as the best measure of the number of pupils educated at district expense. It includes the average daily membership of students enrolled in district programs, charter school

students resident to the district, incarcerated youth, plus students attending other types of schools or programs at district expense. Half-day pre-k and half-day kindergarten students are weighted at 0.5. It is a duplicated count because resident students attending other districts are counted in both the district of residence and the district of attendance.

Inflation Adjustments: Inflation adjustments use the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), a national measure of inflation. This report uses the average CPI-U for the full calendar year corresponding to the fiscal year-end for schools. So for the 2014-15 school year, this report uses the average CPI-U for the twelve months of the 2015 calendar year.

Regional Cost Index: The State Education Department developed the Regional Cost Index (RCI) to adjust for the geographical variations in the cost of educational resources in New York State's Labor Force Regions. The RCI is based on statewide median salaries in professional occupations that require similar credentials to those of positions in the education field. The labor force regions used in the RCI differ slightly from the economic regions used in this report. For the RCI, Hamilton County is in the North Country region instead of the Mohawk Valley, and Otsego County is in the Mohawk Valley region instead of the Southern Tier. For a detailed description of the construction of the 2012 RCI, see the New York State Board of Regents, *Proposal on State Aid to School Districts for School Year 2012-13* (pp. 53-59), available at: www.p12.nysed.gov/stateaidworkgroup/2012-13RSAP/RSAP1213final.pdf.

STAR: This State program provides most New York resident homeowners with a limited tax exemption from or a tax credit for school district property taxes on their primary residences. The State reimburses the full amount of the exemption to the school districts, which then report it as revenue. See the Department of Taxation and Finance website for current information on the STAR program: www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/.

Student Characteristics and Outcomes

School Report Card Database

The figures used in this report for limited English proficiency rates, four-year graduation rates, students eligible for free or reduced priced lunch, Regents diploma attainment and post-secondary plans come from the State Education Department's School Report Card databases. Each year, SED creates a public database providing data on student demographics, outcomes, teacher characteristics and other factors relating to education, available at: https://data.nysed.gov/downloads.php.

Details on Selected Data Elements and Concepts

Taken from *School Report Card Database,* unless otherwise noted.

Limited English Proficiency (English Language Learners): The percentage of students who do not speak English as their primary language and who have limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English.

Four-Year Graduation Rates: The percentage of all students (general education and students with disabilities) who complete high school within four consecutive school years.

Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch: The percentage of students receiving free or reduced price lunch (FRPL) through the National School Lunch Program. Students from a household with an income at or below 130 percent of the poverty income threshold are eligible for free lunch. Students from a household with an income between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty threshold are eligible for reduced price lunch.[1] In addition, students receiving certain educational services are automatically eligible for free lunches.

Childhood Poverty: The percentage of children under age 18 in households below the poverty level, as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates for 2015. County-level data was aggregated to present regional figures. ACS data going back to 2005 is available for downloading at: http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml.

Regents Diploma Attainment: The percentage of high school graduates who receive Regents diplomas: Regular, Advanced or Career and Technical Education.

Post-Secondary Plans: School districts and other local educational agencies report post-graduation plans for students receiving secondary school credentials in the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) 308 report. The aggregated data is available in the School Report Card database.

School Climate/Environment

School Building Condition Survey

Every five years the State Education Department requires districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services to submit detailed information on school facilities. Details on the Building Condition Survey are available at: www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/BldgCondSurv.htm.

School Safety, Violent Incidents in Schools, Bullying

School districts and other local educational agencies submit school-level data on violent and disruptive incidents to the State Education Department through the Uniform Violent and Disruptive Incident Reporting System (VADIR). The data is used to calculate a School Violence Index (SVI) for each school; the SVI is used to identify persistently dangerous schools. Districts currently report counts of incidents in 20 categories ranging from homicide to minor altercations and weapons possession. The State Education Department also collects school-level data on bullying and cyber-bullying. Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, the number of VADIR categories will be reduced from 20 to nine and combined with the bullying data collection. Data from VADIR and on bullying and cyber-bullying are available on the State Education Department's website at: www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/school_safety/school_safety_data_reporting.html.

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[1] L. Muse-Gillette and T. Snyder, "Free or reduced price lunch: A proxy for poverty?" National Center for Education Statistics, web blog post (April 16, 2015). Available at: https://nces.ed.gov/blogs/nces/post/free-or-reduced-price-lunch-a-proxy-for-poverty.