

1 TAXATION AND FINANCE. SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITHIN THE TOP TEN PERCENT OF
2 THEIR NEEDS PROFILE GROUPING WITHIN EACH ESTABLISHED REGENTS AREA AND/OR
3 WITH TWENTY PERCENT HIGHER GRADUATION RATES THAN OTHER DISTRICTS WITHIN
4 THE SAME NEEDS PROFILE GROUPING MAY BE DETERMINED TO BE EXEMPLARY
5 DISTRICTS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSIONER.

6 3. EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS SHALL BE REVIEWED EVERY THREE YEARS TO DETER-
7 MINE WHETHER SUCH DISTRICTS SHALL RETAIN THE STATUS OF BEING AN EXEM-
8 PLARY DISTRICT.

9 S 152. EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM. 1. EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS
10 MAY ESTABLISH LOCAL CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF. ANY
11 EXEMPLARY DISTRICT ESTABLISHING SUCH LOCAL CRITERIA SHALL SUBMIT SUCH
12 CRITERIA TO THE DEPARTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED ON A BEST PRACTICES SECTION
13 OF THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

14 2. ANY EXEMPLARY DISTRICT ESTABLISHING LOCAL CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION
15 OF STUDENTS AND STAFF SHALL BE REQUIRED TO WORK WITH OTHER DISTRICTS
16 WITHIN THEIR GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND NEEDS PROFILE, AS DETERMINED PURSUANT
17 TO SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE OF THIS PART, OR THE
18 DISTRICT OF THEIR CHOICE AS A MENTOR. THE EXEMPLARY DISTRICT SHALL
19 PROVIDE THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO HELP EVALUATE THE DISTRICT BEING
20 MENTORED AND SHALL PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON ANY BEST PRACTICES THAT MAY HELP
21 THE STUDENTS.

22 3. AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORING ANOTHER DISTRICT AND A DISTRICT
23 BEING MENTORED BY AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT SHALL EACH BE ELIGIBLE FOR CHAL-
24 LENGE GRANTS TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

25 4. AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORING ANOTHER DISTRICT AND A DISTRICT
26 BEING MENTORED BY AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT SHALL COLLABORATE AND PREPARE A
27 REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT SUMMARIZING THE BEST PRACTICES
28 OF THE EXEMPLARY DISTRICT AND RECOMMENDING PROCESSES TO INSURE MORE
29 SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES.

30 S 153. MANDATE EXEMPTION. 1. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH
31 EXEMPTIONS FROM TESTING AND PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH BY THE
32 STATE FOR EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS FOR EACH THREE YEAR PERIOD THAT SUCH
33 SCHOOL IS DETERMINED TO BE AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT AS AN INCENTIVE FOR
34 EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORSHIP
35 PROGRAM.

36 2. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA WHEN DETER-
37 MINING WHICH EXEMPTIONS AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR:

38 (A) SIXTY PERCENT OF THE DETERMINATION SHALL BE BASED ON THE GRADU-
39 ATION RATE, DROP-OUT RATE AND COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE RATE OF THE DISTRICT
40 BEING MENTORED AS COMPARED TO OTHER DISTRICTS WITHIN THE SAME NEEDS
41 PROFILE GROUPING.

42 (B) FORTY PERCENT OF THE DETERMINATION SHALL BE BASED ON CONSIDERATION
43 OF WHETHER THE SCHOOL BOARD IS AFFILIATED WITH THE NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL
44 BOARDS ASSOCIATION OR A LOCAL AFFILIATE, WHETHER THE SCHOOL SUPERINTEN-
45 DENT IS AFFILIATED WITH THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTEN-
46 DENTS, AND THE NUMBER AND VARIETY OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR
47 ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY THE DISTRICT.

48 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.