

1 2. THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL
2 OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS, SHALL GROUP SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY THEIR NEEDS
3 PROFILE, AS DETERMINED BY CONSIDERING THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ELIGI-
4 BLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCHES, THE PERCENTAGE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE
5 LEARNERS, AND CENSUS AND FINANCIAL DATA PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
6 TAXATION AND FINANCE. SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITHIN THE TOP TEN PERCENT OF
7 THEIR NEEDS PROFILE GROUPING WITHIN EACH ESTABLISHED REGENTS AREA AND/OR
8 WITH TWENTY PERCENT HIGHER GRADUATION RATES THAN OTHER DISTRICTS WITHIN
9 THE SAME NEEDS PROFILE GROUPING MAY BE DETERMINED TO BE EXEMPLARY
10 DISTRICTS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSIONER.

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

14 S 152. EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM. 1. EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS
15 MAY ESTABLISH LOCAL CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF. ANY
16 EXEMPLARY DISTRICT ESTABLISHING SUCH LOCAL CRITERIA SHALL SUBMIT SUCH
17 CRITERIA TO THE DEPARTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED ON A BEST PRACTICES SECTION
18 OF THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

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

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

30 4. AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORING ANOTHER DISTRICT AND A DISTRICT
31 BEING MENTORED BY AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT SHALL COLLABORATE AND PREPARE A
32 REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT SUMMARIZING THE BEST PRACTICES
33 OF THE EXEMPLARY DISTRICT AND RECOMMENDING PROCESSES TO INSURE MORE
34 SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES.

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

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

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

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

53 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.