

Summary Timeline of Accountability and Assistance to Holyoke Public Schools – 2003-2015

December 31, 2014

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has had an extensive history of providing accountability and assistance to the Holyoke Public Schools. The attached summary timeline entitled, **Holyoke Public Schools History as an Underperforming/Level 4 District**, highlights major reviews conducted in the district and the associated Department efforts, in partnership with the district, to address the challenges and improve student performance. The attached timeline is broken down into key time periods throughout the past twelve years reflecting important events or actions in two categories: 1) Reports/Analyses describing the state's evaluation of the conditions and needs in the district over this period of time, and 2) Responses/Assistance that provides information on the major investments of resources and direct support to address the identified needs.

A second document, **HPS Financial Support FY2005-FY2015**, lists in broad terms, additional state and federal resources invested in Holyoke Public Schools during this period. It shows over \$13 million dollars in targeted assistance resources provided to the district - beyond its regular allocations of Title I, Title II, Title III and Special Education funds. These funds have been used to support a vast array of targeted professional development and additional student learning time and supports at both the district and school levels. Among the major investments are:

- the five year partnership with America's Choice, a partner contracted to support the district turnaround
- funding for key positions in the district including data analysis and training
- funding for an alternative education program for newcomer students (the TOP program)
- the four year partnership with the District Management Council to help build district capacity and systems to improve student performance
- federal School Redesign grants to two Level 4 schools in the district

Finally, a third attachment entitled, **Holyoke Performance Overview**, contains a report on data trends for the Holyoke Public Schools that covers the same time period as the timeline of the state's engagement with the district. Holyoke student performance is considerably below statewide student performance in all indicators and, importantly, proficiency gaps have not closed during the duration of the interventions. Further, performance and growth in the past one or two years (depending upon the indicator) has declined in ELA and mathematics, thereby contributing to a widening of the proficiency gap.