Hot Topics in Education
Summer Leadership Conference 2023
Session 104

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Some Topics

- Regents Appeals Changes
- Diplomas and Pathways
- School Aid/Foundation Aid
- Computer-based testing
- Arts and Music Education
- Mental Health and Social Emotional Learning
- Family Engagement
Regents Special Appeals

In the wake of COVID:

- Appeals process for 21-22 and 22-23 exams
- Exam scores between 50-64 can be appealed
- Students only need to attempt exams once
Regents Special Appeals, Con't

Starting September 2023, we revert to the 'old' rules:

- Students may appeal ONE Regents exam score between 60-64 and still receive a Regents diploma
- Must attempt exam more than once, show evidence of AIS, tutoring
Blue Ribbon Commission

- NYS Graduation Measures
- Blue Ribbon Commission
  - Parent Advisory Committee
  - Steering Committee
  - Student Advisory Committee
    - Subcommittee: Program Requirements and Learning Experiences
    - Subcommittee: Measurements and Assessment
Blue Ribbon Commission

Group of 40 stakeholders charged with examining current graduation requirements and making recommendations to the Board of Regents. Our own Rob Rijos has been named to the Commission!

The idea is to rethink the type and value of the measures to assess students' knowledge and readiness for college, the military, or the workforce.

(Recognizing there is more to assessing understanding than passing a paper-and-pencil test...)
Current Graduation Requirements

Required courses:
- 4 Social Studies
- 3 Science
- 3 Math
- 1 Language
- 1 Visual Arts
- 2 Physical Education
- ½ Health
- 3 ½ Electives

- 22 Total Credits needed for graduation
Differences in Diploma Types

**CDOS** - Non-diploma Commencement Credential (for students assessed with the NYSAA)

**Local Diploma** - All students with >1 exam appeals, ELL, IEP, Superintendent's Determination

**Regents Diploma** - has met all credit and exam requirements with no more than 1 exam appeal

**Regents with Advanced Designation** -
- Score of 65+ on 7 Regents exams (3 math, 2 science, 1 English, 1 Social Studies)
- Complete 1 sequence (World language, Arts, or CTE)

I have more info about the types!
Diploma Seals/Honors/Mastery

**Biliteracy**

**Civic Readiness**

Regents Diploma with Honors = 90 or better on all required Regents Exams

**Advanced Designation with:**

Mastery in Mathematics = 85 or better on 3 Math Regents exams

Mastery in Science = 85 or better on 3 Science Regents exams
Students must pass 4 required Regents exams - but may complete a pathway in:

- Arts
- CTE (Career and Technical Education)
- CDOS (Career Development and Occupational Studies)
- Civics
- Humanities
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
- World Languages

(Click the bubbles above for more information.)
Superintendent’s Determination

1. Parent must submit a written request that their child be considered
2. Child has a current IEP & is receiving special ed services
3. Student did not meet the graduation requirements through the low pass (55-64) safety net option or the compensatory option
4. Student earned the required course credits and passed all courses required for graduation, including the Regents courses
Superintendent’s Determination

5. The student:
• earned a minimum score of 55 on ELA and Math Regents examinations; and/or
• successfully appealed a score between 52 and 54 on ELA and Mathematics Regents examinations; and/or
• was unable to achieve a minimum score of 55 or did not initiate an appeal of a score of between 52 and 54 on the ELA and/or Mathematics Regents examinations, but he or she completed the requirements for the Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential (CDOS)
NYSELSAT & NYSITELL will move to CBT in Spring 2024 for Grades 2-12
  - Grades K & 1 will remain paper-based
- More guidance to be made available
NYSED PSPB

NYS PTA has representation as a public member on the P-12 Professional Practices Subcommittee

- Working to improve the teacher mentor standards to provide guidance for new teachers
- Discussions around impending teacher shortage, recruitment, and retention practices

- Higher Ed subcommittee looking into teacher certification requirements
Federal Funds

American Rescue Plan enacted during COVID expired in June 2023. Many districts have either reduced programs or shuffled funding to continue those programs.

The good news: Governor Hochul promised to fully fund Foundation Aid by 2024 (which has NEVER been fully funded since its creation in 2007).
Foundation Aid is calculated based on:

- a per pupil expenditure (depending on region)
- local contribution (based on tax rates)
- number of pupils per district
- an adjustment to foundation aid based on a bunch of specific conditions that districts must meet

It's not perfect - but it's a way to differentiate the funding provided to school districts based on the resources and needs in that particular area.
Music and Arts Education

ESSA made music and arts stand alone ‘common branch subjects’ in 2015

Included in NYS Commissioner Part 100 regulations but NOT in NYS Education Law

Allows districts to get “wiggly” with seat time mandates

○ “Recommended” but not required that music/art be taught by a NYS certified Music K-12/Art K-12 teacher

○ Credit requirements clear for 7-12 but not for PreK-6
Music and Arts Education

- Creates major inequities with access to music and the arts in schools across the state

- Music and art education organizations have been advocating for the past few years to align state law to the federal education laws

- **A1502/S285** would make NY State the first in the country to properly align state education law with federal law
  - New bill numbers for 2023-24 legislative session
  - Currently “in committee” – need advocacy to FINALLY get bills out of committee and onto floor for vote
Mental Health & SEL

• Mental Health education now mandated

• SEL = Social Emotional Learning
Mental Health & SEL

https://www.mentalhealthednys.org/

Fast Facts

Half of all chronic mental illnesses begin by age 14

Half of all lifetime cases of anxiety disorders begin as early as age 8

22% of youth experience serious mental illness in a given year

Youth substance abuse may be an attempt to self-medicate symptoms of undiagnosed mental illness

Early signs of mental illness are often mistaken for typical characteristics of childhood and adolescent development

The median delay between the onset of symptoms and treatment is 10 years.
Family Engagement

4 Principles of Transformative Family Engagement

INCLUSIVE
Embracing and valuing diverse perspectives.

INDIVIDUALIZED
Meeting the unique needs of every family and child.

INTEGRATED
Connecting and aligning with the educational system.

IMPACTFUL
Empowering families to support their child's success.
Family Engagement

ESSA requires a written family engagement plan, drafted in collaboration with parents and families

Bilingual Education & English as a New Language - Parent Engagement
Early Learning - Parent Resources
Educational Technology for Families
Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
  - English Language Learners / Multilingual Learners (ELLs / MLLs)
  - Equitable Services for Nonpublic Schools
Fact Sheets
New York State ESSA Plan
New York State's new school accountability system
Parent Dashboard
School Accountability Designations
School Climate / Educating the Whole Child
Supporting Students with Disabilities
Video
Special Education - Assistance for Parents
Student Support Services
Special Education

NYS PTA Special Education Page - https://nyspta.org/home/parent-resources/special-education/

Parent Training and Information Centers provide families of children (birth -21) with disabilities assistance, help, and referral services for no cost.

- **Statewide** (except for LI and NYC)
- **Putnam, Westchester, Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster**
- **NYC and its 5 Boroughs**
- **Long Island**
- **Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming, Genesee, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany**

NYS Education Department **Office of Special Education**

NYS Education Department **Assistance for Parents Page**
Special Education

**Pathways to Graduation Options** for Students with Disabilities

**IEP Facilitation Process** information for families

**IEP Meeting Facilitation** information for families

You can also seek assistance from a number of **Education Department Regional Offices**.

**Parent to Parent of NYS** also has support for parents and families of students with disabilities
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