



EMPIRE STATE SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

Supporting school leaders, every day.

Summary of February 2023 Board of Regents Meeting

The Board of Regents conducted their monthly meeting on Monday, February 13th and Tuesday February 14th. Lester Young opened the meeting by recognizing February as Black History Month.

- The opening session focused on **Effective School Discipline Practices In New York State School Districts**. Based on the data and recommendations which were included in the **Recommendations for Reducing Disparities in and Reforming School Discipline in New York State Report** that was presented at the January Regents meeting, representatives from several districts across the state presented an overview of steps they have taken to improve discipline practices and reduce suspension rates.

Dr. Edward Fergus, a professor from Rutgers University who specializes in racial disproportionality and equity, framed key components associated with discipline disparities and presented recent research findings on how school culture and climate contributes to behavioral improvements in students. School superintendents from the Oceanside Union Free District, Vernon Verona Sherrill School District, Perry Central School District, Ossining Union Free School District, Geneva City School District, and the NYC Department of Education presented summaries of steps they have taken to improve behavior supports and reduce school suspensions. Key areas of focus in the various districts include:

1. Increasing social emotional health resources.
2. Examining behavioral health intervention strategies.
3. Expanding alternative learning settings.
4. Engaging and better coordinating community resources.
5. Providing trauma responsiveness training to staff.
6. Improving parent engagement.
7. Revising codes of conduct.
8. Examining factors that guide behavioral intervention decisions.
9. Reviewing disproportionality data of discipline referrals and suspensions.

10. Implementing multi-tiered systems of supports.

The link below includes the slides which were used by the various presenters and provides more specific information on the topics which were discussed.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/FB%20Monday%20-%20Supporting%20Student%20Wellbeing%20and%20Equity%20-%20Effective%20School%20Discipline%20Practices%20from%20New%20York%20State%20School%20Districts.pdf>

- The Board reviewed the proposed 2023-24 Executive Budget which was recently presented by Governor Hochul. Key areas of the Governor's proposal were compared with the Board of Regents 2023-24 proposal and the Regents priority budget items, which were not funded in the Executive Budget, were outlined. NYSED will continue negotiations with legislators in the coming weeks toward the goal of having the non-included items restored before the budget is finalized.

The link below will provide you with a detailed summary of the comparative analysis of the Executive and BOR budget proposal, including the specific items in the BOR proposal that were not funded in the Executive Budget.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/SA%20-%20Review%20of%20the%202023-24%20Executive%20Budget.pdf>

- The Board adopted proposed amendments relating to the restart of the School Accountability System associated with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). NYSED staff members reviewed the components of the revised plan which includes both the various supports available to all school districts and the guided supports offered for schools that are in need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI).

The link below provides the slides that were used in the presentation by NYSED staff.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/P12%20-%20Restarting%20the%20ESSA%20Accountability%20System%20-%20Sections%20100.19%20and%20100.21%20Amendments%20to%20the%20Commissioner%27s%20Regulations.pdf>

This 2nd link provides the full text of the adopted amendment.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/223p12a1.pdf>

- The Board discussed proposed amendments related to Special Education Due Process Hearings. It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the June 2023 Board of Regents meeting after public hearings are held as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Act and the expiration of the 60-day public comment period.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/223p12d1.pdf>

- As part of the **Model P-20 Partnerships for Principal Preparation Grant**, six urban school districts from across the state are participating in a pilot program that partners schools with an institution of higher learning and outside leadership development specialists to explore effective strategies to better prepare school leaders. Upon completion of the program, participants earn New York State School Building Leader (SBL) certification.

The Board approved an amendment that extends the end date of the grant to September 30, 2025. The amendment also allows participating districts to request flexibilities with the initial regulations that would allow them to utilize more innovative and sustainable strategies in the leadership development process.

Many Board members expressed interest in obtaining more information about the success of the candidates who have participated in the program to date.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/223hea1revised.pdf>

- Based on stakeholder feedback that has been received, the Board discussed revisions to a previously proposed amendment which would allow a limited exemption for experienced teachers enrolled in a graduate program pursuing one or more certificates. The proposal would excuse candidates from the full-semester clinical experience clock hour requirement. Eligible candidates must have completed a registered New York State teacher preparation program and hold an initial or Professional Teacher certificate.

It is anticipated that the revised proposal will be presented for permanent adoption at the May 2023 Board of regent meeting.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/223hed1.pdf>

- The Board discussed an amendment which would establish the **Indigenous Culture and Language Studies (All Grades)** certificate/tenure area.

Currently, Indigenous Culture and Language courses can be taught by a teacher who obtains a permit based on prerequisite skills. The proposal outlines the course requirements for teacher preparation programs and for candidates who pursue the individual evaluation pathway. It is important to note that Instructors currently teaching under the permit will still be allowed to teach courses in the future.

After the 60-day public comment period, it is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for adoption at the June 2023 Board of Regents meeting.

The link below provides more detailed information on the proposal including the pedagogical coursework, core content, and student teaching requirements.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/HE-P-12%20--%20Proposed%20Indigenous%20Culture%20and%20Language%20Studies%20Certificate%20Presentation.pdf>

ESSAA Members – please note that we will be conducting a workshop addressing the changing landscape of student discipline on March 28th. An announcement regarding the workshop will be forthcoming.