



**EMPIRE STATE SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION**

Supporting school leaders, every day.

## Summary of June 2023 Board of Regents Meeting

The Board of Regents conducted their monthly meeting on Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Regent James Cottrell opened the meeting by recognizing June as Pride Month. He offered remarks related to the significance of the 1969 Stonewall Riots in NYC and recognized the legacy of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California. Regent Cottrell went on to state that schools in New York State have made much progress toward becoming more accepting of LGBTQ students and stressed the need to continue these efforts.

- Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Student Support Services, Kathleen DeCataldo, facilitated the opening session which focused on continued efforts toward creating a safe, supportive, and affirming school environment for transgender and gender expansive students. She was joined by Michael Montoya, an assistant from the Office of Educational Improvement Services, and Dr. Michael Paff, a school psychologist from Highland High School. Together they provided a summary of 2023 legal updates and reviewed best practices that have been implemented in schools across the state. Information was provided on new regulations relating to legal protections, student privacy/confidentiality, effective support measures, and new educator and community resources that are being developed.

A current transgender student who is about to graduate from high school also participated in the discussion. The student shared insights into what LGBTQ students are currently experiencing, and described some of the biggest challenges they are facing in areas such as discrimination, harassment, mental health, and not feeling supported in an inclusive environment.

The link below includes the slide presentation that was used during the discussion and outlines the topics that were referenced. It is anticipated that NYSED will be releasing newly updated guidance documents and professional development webinars in the near future.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/FB%20Monday%20-%20Creating%20a%20Safe%2C%20Supportive%2C%20and%20Affirming%20School%20Environment%20for%20Transgender%20and%20Gender%20Expansive%20Students%20Legal%20Update%20and%20Best%20Practices%202023.pdf>

- The Board formally recognized Dr. Kevin McGowan, from the Brighton Central Schools, as the 2023 AASA School Superintendent's Association National Superintendent of the Year.
- NYSED staff from the Office of Accountability reviewed updated information relating to the Accountability Restart Plan which will ensure compliance with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). After the process for the development of the Rebuild Proposal was reviewed, the three-year phase-in schedule for the various accountability indicators were outlined for both the grades 3-8 and high school levels.

The link below includes a very user-friendly summary of the Restart Plan which could be useful to share with staff and community members.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/P-12%20-%20Every%20Student%20Succeeds%20Act%20%28ESSA%29%20Accountability%20Rebuild%20Proposal%202023-24%20and%202024-25%20School%20Years.pdf>

- The Board discussed amendments related to special education due process hearings which would include:
  1. Limiting the granting of extensions for hearings.
  2. Permitting enforcement of mediation and resolution agreements.
  3. Adding new requirements regarding the conduct of attorneys and non-attorney representatives during hearings.
  4. Permitting impartial hearing officers to determine whether hearings should be conducted in-person, by teleconference, or videoconference.

It is anticipated that the revised amendment will be presented for adoption at the October 2023 Board of regents meeting.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/623p12d1.pdf>

- The Board adopted a proposed emergency amendment which extends the date by which school districts must submit waiver requests that allow the hiring of Universal Prekindergarten Program (UPK) personnel employed by an outside agency. The amendment moves the date from **August 1 to September 1** of each school year, allowing districts to have a better idea of staffing needs for the coming school year before submitting waiver requests.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/623p12a1revised.pdf>

- The Board adopted an amendment which will require non-public schools to follow the same rules and regulations on concussion management procedures as public schools.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/623p12a2.pdf>

- The Board was presented with an overview of four programs which are facilitated by the Office of Access, Equity, and Community Engagement Services (OAECEs) that provide postsecondary opportunities for underrepresented and academically and economically disadvantaged students.

OAECEs currently administers \$100 million annually in grant funding to support the:

- Science and Technology Program (STEP)
- Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)
- Liberty Partnership Program (LPP)
- Collegiate Science and technology Entry Program (CSTEP)

The link below provides access to the slides used during the presentation and includes more detailed information on the goals of each program and how participating students are supported.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/HE%20-%20Overview%20and%20Update%20of%20Higher%20Education%20Opportunity%20Access%20Programs.pdf>

- The Board discussed proposed amendments which would better align the pathways for out-of-state candidates seeking certification as a school counselor with the current requirements for teachers and educational leader candidates.

The proposed revisions would create two distinct pathways for potential candidates:

1. The **Endorsement Pathway** is for school counselor candidates who are certified in another state and are moving to New York.
2. The **Comparable Program Pathway** is for candidates who have completed a school counselor education program at an out-of-state college or university and wish to obtain NYS certification.

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for adoption at the October 2023 Board of Regents meeting after the 60-day public comment period.

The specific qualification criteria being proposed for each of the pathways can be found in the link below.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/623hed1.pdf>