



## **EMPIRE STATE SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION**

**Supporting school leaders, every day.**

### **Summary of May 2023 Board of Regents Meeting**

The Board of Regents conducted their monthly meeting on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Chancellor Lester Young opened the meeting with a moment of silence in remembrance of the 10 lives lost in the Buffalo tragedy one year ago.

- The opening session focused on **Pre-Employment Transition Services** provided to students with disabilities through the NYSED Department of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES). Deputy Commissioner for ACCES, Ceylane Myers Ruff, facilitated a panel discussion with representatives from various transition programs across the state who presented overviews of the services they offer and highlighted best practices.

ACCES Pre-Employment Transition Services are available to students, age 14-21, who are enrolled in an educational program and have a disability supported by an IEP or 504 Plan. Representatives from the various districts highlighted unique ways they support students with acquiring employment skills through:

- Job exploration counseling,
- Work-based Learning Experiences
- Counseling on Postsecondary Options
- Workplace Readiness Training
- Self-Advocacy

After the panel discussion, Regent Roger Tilles expressed concern that the availability of these resources varies widely across different regions of the state and feels strongly that services of this type should be accessible to all students with disabilities.

The link below provides more information on what was presented and includes a more specific summary of the services offered through ACCES Pre-Employment Services programs.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/FB%20Monday%20-%20Pre-Employment%20Transition%20Services%20%28Pre-ETS%29.pdf>

- The Board was updated on the 2023-2024 State enacted Budget which was recently approved by the legislature.

Board members and NYSED staff were pleased with several NYSED budget request items which were approved in the enacted budget and include either continued or expanded funding for:

1. The final phase-in of the Foundation Aid Formula.
2. Expansion of UPK.
3. P-TECH and Early College High Schools.
4. Access to free school meals.
5. My Brother's Keeper, Liberty Partnership, Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) and Collegiate Science and Technology and entry Program (CSTEP).
6. Updates to the NYSED TEACH data system.

Commissioner Rosa, along with several Board members, also expressed frustration with several budget requests that were **NOT** approved and included:

1. Increased staffing and technology resources to support NYSED's efforts to modernize the department, improve customer service, enhance infrastructure, and support the many initiatives they are currently working on.
2. Re-evaluating and modernizing the formulas for determining Foundation Aid and Prekindergarten funding.
3. Enhancing student access to Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

The link below provides a more detailed review of the information that was reviewed in the enacted budget presentation.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/SA%20-%202023-2024%20State%20Aid%20Enacted%20Budget%20Update.pdf>

- In December 2020, the Board of Regents unanimously approved an amendment which increased the amount of time that teachers are allowed to teach classes outside their certification area (incidental teaching) from five classroom hours per week to ten classroom hours per week. Based on the positive stakeholder feedback NYSED has received, the Board voted to extend the amendment through the end of the 2023 -2024 school year.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/523hea1revised.pdf>

- The Board discussed permanently adopting an amendment, originally passed in December 2016, which allows substitute teachers who do not hold a valid teaching certificate, and are not working towards certification, to work more than 40 days per school year. Following the 60-day public comment period, it is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the September 2023 Board of Regents meeting.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/523hed1revised.pdf>