



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

Supporting school leaders, every day.

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

The Board of Regents conducted their monthly meeting on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Chancellor Lester Young began the meeting by asking for a moment of silence to remember all those who are experiencing challenging situations at this time.

- Regent Frances Wills and Regent Roger Catania, along with Members of the State Aid Subcommittee, presented the finalized **Regents Budget and Legislative Proposal for the 2024-2025 school year**.

Budget priorities include:

1. Upgrading and modernizing NYSED office systems.
2. Increased support for English Language Learners and recent immigrants
3. Increased support for Special Education Programs, especially with regards to the new FAPE 22 Regulations.
4. Supporting the transition to EV School Buses.
5. Expanding PreK programs.
6. Reevaluating the Foundation Aid formula.
7. Expanding student access to CTE courses
8. Increased funding to improve opportunities for students to earn college credits through dual enrollment courses or Early College High Schools.
9. Continuing funding which will allow districts to sustain staffing that has been supported by federal stimulus-funding.
10. Reforming the APPR process

Regent Roger Catania emphasized the need to look at both short and long range plans that increase support for PreK programs, address the teacher shortage by removing barriers to certification, and implement much needed APPR reforms.

Regent Frances Wills stressed the need to increase funding for the NYSED Charter School Office, due to decreases in federal funding. She also expressed the importance of increased support for arts education and more funding for museum and library infrastructure improvements.

The proposed budget was approved by the Board and will now be sent to the legislature for review with a tentative adoption date of April 1, 2024.

The link below includes the slides used during the budget presentation and contains a more comprehensive list of items included in the proposal.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/FB%20Monday%20-%202024-2025%20State%20Education%20Department%20Budget%20and%20Legislative%20Initiatives.pdf>

- Assistant Commissioner for the Offices of Standards and Instruction, Dr. Santosha Oliver, reviewed proposed amendments which clarify the difference between remote instruction and virtual instruction. The amendment also more clearly defines the parameters under which schools may provide K-12 virtual instruction.

The revised definitions include:

**Remote Instruction** - occurs due to limitations with access to a brick-and-mortar classroom.

**Virtual instruction** – includes synchronous, or a combination of synchronous/asynchronous instruction, in a virtual learning environment. Virtual instruction must include regular and substantive interaction between the students and teacher, and requires that all students have access via a digital device with adequate service.

**Blended Instruction** – is delivered as synchronous in both an in-person learning environment and in a virtual environment. It can also include a combination of synchronous/asynchronous instruction where there is regular and substantive interaction between student and teacher.

The new provisions provide that parents/guardians may voluntarily elect that their children receive virtual and/or blended instruction if offered. Additionally, districts that offer virtual and/or blended instruction **must ensure** that enrolled students have access to the required technology necessary to participate in instruction.

Finally, the provision mandates that virtual or blended instruction **must be provided by a certified teacher** from the school district that the student is enrolled or an appropriately certified teacher from a BOCES that has contracted with the school district to provide instruction in the subject area.

Deputy Commissioner Angelique Johnson-Dingle shared that a FAQ document which clarifies the changes will be sent out the field at the conclusion of the 60-day public comment period.

The Proposed amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the April 2024 Regents meeting.

Attached is a link that provides more detailed information on the proposed amendment.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/1223p12d2revised.pdf>

- The Board approved a proposed regulatory amendment which requires schools, that are authorized to keep epinephrine auto-injectors on-site, to provide written informational material to staff on how to use the auto injectors.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/1223p12a1.pdf>

- The Board was updated on the implementation of the **NYS P-12 Science Learning Standards**. The timeline for the development of the standards was reviewed, key shifts in instruction and assessment were highlighted, and an update on implementation was provided.

A key area of emphasis with the new standards is that instruction should focus on a coherent three dimensional storyline connection between:

1. **Disciplinary core ideas**
2. **Crosscutting concepts**
3. **Science engineering practices**

Curricular examples of these concepts were presented along with samples science assessment questions that align with the three dimensional framework.

The link below includes the slides that were used during the presentation and provide information on how to access sample science assessment questions from the elementary, middle, and secondary level.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/P-12%20-%20Implementation%20of%20NYS%20P-12%20Science%20Learning%20Standards.pdf>

- NYSED staff provided an update on the Board's increased commitment to **arts education**. The presentation included an overview of the arts learning standards, a summary of the programs offered through the NYS Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA), and an update on the implementation of the Individual Arts Assessment Pathway (IAAP) diploma option.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/CE%20-%20NYS%20Arts%20Education.pdf>

- During the development of the 2024 -25 budget proposal, funding to support expanding access to dual enrollment courses and early college programs was a priority item. The Board of Regents P-20 Workgroup presented an overview of the various early college programs currently being administered across the State. A comparison of the different opportunities was presented, and funding options that would support expansion were discussed.

The link below includes the slides that were used during the discussion and provides more detailed information on the different early college program models being offered throughout the state.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/P-20%20WG%20-%20Early%20College%20Programs%20and%20Policy.pdf>