



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

Supporting school leaders, every day.

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

The Board of Regents conducted their monthly meeting on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Chancellor Lester Young opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the first Board of Regents meeting of the 2023-24 school year. He then asked everyone to pause for a moment of reflection to remember those who lost their lives in the 9/11 tragedy, honor the bravery of the first responders, and thank all those who have worked so tirelessly to help the families affected by the tragedy.

- During the opening session, the Board was updated on emerging research in *Literacy Instruction/The Science of Reading*. Deputy Commissioner, P-12 Instructional Support, Angelique Dingle-Johnson recognized September as National Literacy Month and introduced the scope of the presentation. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that learning to read is a complex and personal journey that presents significant challenges for both students and educators. She stressed that the definition of literacy is constantly changing as technology continues to impact teaching and learning. Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Standards and Instruction, Dr. Santosa Oliver, shared that the newly implemented Next Generation Language Arts Learning Standards align with emerging literacy research. Executive Director for the Office of Early Learning, Erik Sweet, reviewed updated literacy-related instructional resources that NYSED has made available for educators.

Dr. Nonie Lesaux, Professor of Education at Harvard School of Education, then facilitated a discussion on the most current research associated with the Science of Reading Instruction. Professor Lesaux stressed that the definition of what it means to be literate is expanding as the role of literacy skills are redefined based on the kinds of cognitive and interpersonal competencies employers are looking for in the emerging workforce.

Dr. Lesaux reviewed what is being learned from current research and how it can relate to improving reading instruction. She focused primarily on the Core Elements of Reading Instruction, and the key instructional distinctions between Code-Based Skills vs Meaning Based Skills and Everyday Language vs Academic language.

Following Dr. Lesaux's presentation, representatives from three NYS districts/BOCES presented overviews of the research-based approaches which are emphasized in their reading programs.

The link below includes the slides which were referenced during the presentation and provides more specific details on the concepts that were discussed.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/FB%20Monday%20-%20Literacy%20Update.pdf>

- The Board adopted regulatory changes related to the rebuilding of the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability System**. With the **Restart Phase** completed in 2022-23, the transition to the two year **Rebuild Phase** will be based on 2023-24 and 2024-2025 data.

ESSA performance indicators will generally remain the same during this phase for the elementary, middle and secondary levels. At the elementary/middle level, Student Growth Scores will now be reported for informational purposes only. At the high school level, College, Career, and Civic Readiness scores will also be included, but only for informational purposes.

Additionally, during the two-year Rebuild Phase, NYSED **will not identify any new schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI)** until 2025-26 when additional data is available.

NYSED **will**, however, **continue to identify schools and districts for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)** annually, based on Every Student Succeeds Act requirements. Schools will be newly identified as TSI for 2023-2024 based on results from 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years.

The link below includes the slides used during the presentation and provides information on specifics associated with the next phase of the Accountability Rollout.

[https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/P-12%20-%20Every%20Student%20Succeeds%20Act%20-%28ESSA%29%20Accountability%20Rebuild%20Regulatory%20Changes%20to%20100.19%20%26%20100.21\\_0.pdf](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/P-12%20-%20Every%20Student%20Succeeds%20Act%20-%28ESSA%29%20Accountability%20Rebuild%20Regulatory%20Changes%20to%20100.19%20%26%20100.21_0.pdf)

- The Board passed an emergency amendment to assist districts that are struggling to meet the **10-day timeline for identifying English Language Learners** and ensure they receive the appropriate services in their language acquisition programs. The amendment allows districts to seek an additional 10-day extension through submission of a formal request to the Commissioner's Office.

The amendment becomes effective immediately.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/923p12a2.pdf>

- In response to the large number of recently arrived asylum seekers enrolling in schools, the Board adopted an **emergency amendment to assist districts with the increased challenges of hiring needed staff**.

The amendment provides increased flexibility for districts to support teachers seeking Supplementary Certification (allows teachers to teach in an area that has a shortage of certified teachers) and for Supplementary Bilingual extensions (allows certified teachers and certified pupil personnel professionals to teach and work with bilingual ELLs where there is a demonstrated shortage of teacher candidates).

The change eases certain requirements for certified teachers or pupil personnel professionals in eligible districts to more expeditiously obtain either the Supplementary Certificate or the Supplementary English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Certificate.

The amendment becomes effective immediately.

More specific details on the requirements for each certificate can be found in the link to amendment found below.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/923hep12a1revised.pdf>

- The Board discussed an amendment which would extend, by one year, the deadline for teachers to meet the **new Computer Science tenure regulations**. It is anticipated that the extension will eliminate potential confusion teachers could experience with regards to their tenure while the transition to the new certification area is implemented. The proposed amendment would extend the deadline from September 1, 2023 to September 4, 2024.

It is anticipated that the amendment will be presented for formal adoption at the January 2024 Board of Regents meeting.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/923hed2.pdf>

- The Board adopted an emergency amendment which **provides increased flexibilities for candidates pursuing an Initial School Counselor certificate** through the individual education pathway. The amendment provides additional options to satisfy the practicum and internship requirements for candidates who are transitioning between previous certification programs and the new requirements.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/923hea1revised.pdf>

- The Board began initial discussions on the development of **Budget and Legislative Priorities for the 2024-2025** budget proposal. The tentative timeline for the process was reviewed and potential funding priorities were discussed. Discussions will continue at future Board meetings with the final budget proposal being presented for approval at the December 2023 Board of Regents meeting.

The link below includes an outline of potential budget priorities which were discussed.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/SA%20-Process%20for%20the%20Regents%20Budget%20%26%20Legislative%20Priorities%20for%202024-2025.pdf>