



EMPIRE STATE SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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Summary of October 2024 Board of Regents Meeting

The Board of Regents conducted their monthly meeting on Monday, October 7, and Tuesday, October 8, 2024. Regent Roger Tillis opened the meeting expressing sincere sadness with the fact that October 7 is being remembered as a day associated with hatred and antisemitism based on the events that occurred one year ago. He expressed concerns with all the violence and hate that students in NYS have observed over the past year and emphasized that the Board of Regents must continue to promote tolerance and inclusiveness as key components of the cultural competence we seek to instill in our graduates.

Following Regent Tillis' remarks, Regent Aramina Vega Ferrer offered reflective thoughts on the contributions of Latino and Hispanic individuals to our culture as we continue to recognize **Hispanic Heritage Month** through October 15th.

P-12 related topics covered during the September 2024 meeting that are summarized in this report include:

- **Celebration and Commemoration of New York's Role in the American Revolution as the 250th Anniversary.**
- **Proposed Amendment Relating to the Clarification of Roles, Responsibilities and Working Conditions of BOCES District Superintendents.**
- **Reintroduction of Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability Indicators for the 2025 – 2026 School Year.**
- **Proposed Amendments Relating to Flexibilities With Earning Teacher Certification**
- **Discussion of the 2025 - 2026 Board of Regents Budget and Legislative Proposal**

- **Bringing New York State's History Alive through the 250th American Revolution Commemoration Commission**

Deputy Commissioner Sharon Cates Williams introduced a partnership between staff members from **NYSED** and the **NYS Department of Parks and Recreation** who are collaborating to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Representatives of the Department of Parks and Recreation reviewed the efforts that are in progress to install 27 interactive kiosks at historic sites across the state. The kiosks include photos, biological narratives and videos that highlight the contributions of New Yorkers in the Revolutionary War. It was also emphasized that, in addition to the military efforts of New Yorkers, the presentations also recognize the broader heroic social contributions of women, African Americans, and Native Americans in the conflict.

NYSED is seeking funding to ensure that teachers and students across the state have online access to the information being developed so they can also be integrated into classroom instruction.

Below you will find a link to the slides used in the presentation.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/FB%20Monday%20-%20Commemoration%20through%20Collaboration.pdf>

- **Proposed Amendment Relating to Clarification of Roles, Responsibilities, and Working Conditions of BOCES District Superintendents**

A proposed amendment was discussed that is intended to clarify the role of the 37 BOCES District Superintendents across the State. The goals of the proposed changes are to ensure consistency with roles and responsibilities, better support effective leadership, and address the need for clear procedures regarding employment status, compensation and benefits.

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented to the Board of Regents for formal adoption at their February 2025 meeting after the expiration of the 60-day public comment period.

The link below includes more specific information on the proposed amendment.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/1024p12d1revised.pdf>

- **Reintroduction of Accountability Indicators Related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Requirements for the 2025-2026 School Year.**

NYSED staff members reviewed the 2025-2026 accountability indicators that will be reintroduced as the next reintegration phase of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is implemented.

Some of the key indicators being reintroduced for 2025-2026 include:

1. Significant Changes to the **Chronic Absenteeism Indicator Formula**
2. Reinstatement of **Growth Measures** at the **elementary and middle** levels
3. Reinstatement of the **Career Civic Readiness (CCCR)** indicator at the **high school** level
4. Reinstatement of **Social Studies** scores, weighted equally with **Science scores**, to the **high school** accountability formula
5. Reinstatement of **Science scores** into the accountability formula at **elementary and middle** levels

It was emphasized that, upon approval of the plan by the US Department of Education, NYSED is prepared to offer extensive guidance and support to assist districts with implementing the changes.

The link below includes the slides that were referenced during the presentation and includes several charts and diagrams that could be helpful with communicating this information to staff.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/P12%20-%20Reimagine%20Phase%20Accountability%20System%20Proposal.pdf>

- **Proposed Amendments Relating to Increased Flexibilities For Earning Teacher Certification**

The Board discussed proposed amendments that would expand the range of approved certification examination and waiver options for candidates seeking teacher certification.

With regards to certification examinations, NYSED is seeking to be more flexible with granting reciprocity to candidates from other states who have passed certification exams that have similar rigor to what is offered in New York.

Additionally, NYSED would also have the option to grant waivers to candidates who do not pass, but come close to the passing score, on the certification exam. To be eligible for the waiver, candidates would need to present an academic portfolio that demonstrates an acceptable depth of knowledge, or show they have achieved a GPA of 3.5 or better in their graduate program.

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the February 2026 Board of Regents meeting after the expiration of the 60-day public comment period.

The link below includes more specific information on the proposed amendment.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/1024hed1.pdf>

- **2025 – 2026 Legislative Priorities ad Budget Proposal Discussion**

On Tuesday morning the Board continued discussions on priorities for the 2025-2026 Budget and Legislative Proposal.

Priorities that were discussed include:

1. Updating the current formula used to determine Foundation Aid
2. Addressing priorities not funded in the 2024 budget proposal including funding for:
 - a. Capital Needs
 - b. New Special Education Data System
 - c. Increasing NYSED Agency capacities to meet the needs of the field
 - d. Adequately funding Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) for students with disabilities until age 22.
3. Increased funding for PreK Programs
4. Adequate funding to implement changes recommended by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures especially professional development
5. Funding that supports both the recruitment of teachers and increases the diversity of the educator workforce
6. Increased aid for districts experiencing significant enrollment growth
7. Increased Career and Technical Education (CTE) Funding

Below you will find a link to the slides that were referenced during the discussion.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/SA%20-%20Budget%20%26%20Legislative%20Priorities%20Framework%20Discussion.pdf>