



EMPIRE STATE SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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Summary of September 2024 Board of Regents Meeting

The Board of Regents conducted their monthly meeting on Monday, September 9, and Tuesday, September 10, 2024. Chancellor Lester Young opened the meeting with a moment of silence in remembrance of the students and staff who experienced the recent school shooting in Appalachia, Georgia and for former Board of Regents members Harry Phillips and Ena Farley who passed away recently.

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

- ***Update on the New York State Department of Labor Teacher Ambassador Program.***
 - ***A Proposed Amendment Relating to Regionalization Process Requirements***
 - ***An Update on Students Earning the Seal of Biliteracy and Indigenous Languages.***
 - ***A Proposed Amendment to Establish the Professional Administrator Certificate.***
 - ***Discussion of 2025-2026 Budget and Legislative Priorities.***
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- **NYS Department of Labor Teacher Ambassador Program Update**

Commissioner Betty Rosa introduced Department of Labor (DOL) Commissioner, Roberta Reardon, who facilitated an overview of the DOL sponsored **Teacher Ambassador Program**. Currently in its second year, the federally funded initiative has trained 85 grade 6-12 teachers, librarians, and guidance counselors from across the state. The four week summer training institute assists participants with acquiring strategies and skills to align classroom instruction with student career exploration. Recent participants in the program described some of the more impactful components of the training and how the experience has enhanced instruction in their classrooms.

Both Commissioner Rosa and Commissioner Reardon emphasized the need for a stronger partnership between the Department of Labor and NYSED to improve the connection between workforce development and middle and high school curricula.

Below you will find two links. The first link includes the slides used during the meeting presentation and the second link will connect you to the Teacher Ambassador Program website.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/FB%20Monday%20-%20Teacher%20Ambassador%20Program.pdf>

<https://dol.ny.gov/teacher-ambassador-program>

- **Proposed Amendments Related to Establishing the Professional Administrator Certificate**

Deputy Commissioner from the Office of Higher Education, Bill Murphy, presented an amendment proposing that the current **School Building Leader (SBL)** and **School District Leader (SDL)** certificates be combined into a single **Professional Administrator Certificate**.

Specific components of the proposal include:

1. Six pathway options to earn the new Professional Administrator Certificate.
2. New requirements for registered higher education programs that offer coursework leading to administrator certification.
3. The potential pathways for individuals to obtain an extension allowing them to work as a superintendent
4. Revised clinical experience requirements for administrative candidates

Deputy Commissioner Murphy also reviewed a tentative timeline for implementing the new certificate policies and shared that Transitional D options for earning the Professional Administrative Certificate are currently being discussed.

After the expiration of the 60-day public comment period, it is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the January 2025 Board of Regents meeting.

Below you will find a link to the slides that were used during the discussion which include specific information on each of the components included in the proposal.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/HE%20-%20Proposed%20Amendments%20Related%20to%20Establishing%20the%20Professional%20Administrator%20Certificate.pdf>

- **Proposed Amendment Relating to Regionalization Plans in New York State**

Regionalization is a collaborative model for school districts to address student needs and pursue solutions to academic and operational challenges. Senior Deputy Commissioner for Education Policy, Jeffrey Matteson, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Educational Policy, David Frank and Chief of Staff for the Office of Educational Policy, Laura Glass, presented a proposed regulatory amendment which will require that 37 BOCES regions across the state facilitate a 14 month regionalization process with their representative districts. During this time, participants will collaboratively analyze data, assess resource equity and share best practices.

Deputy Commissioner Matteson emphasized that the three areas districts will need to focus on include:

1. Addressing educational access inequities
2. Managing emerging fiscal constraints
3. Establishing collaborative frameworks for implementing the proposed recommendations of the Graduation Measures Initiative.

It is anticipated that the finalized regionalization plans will assist the Board of Regents with developing appropriate legislative and budget recommendations for the future.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Board as an emergency amendment and now goes out for the 60-day public comment period. It is anticipated that the amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the January 2025 Regents meeting.

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

https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/P-12%20-%20Regionalization%20Plans%20in%20New%20York%20State_0.pdf

- **Proposed Amendment Relating to the Seal of Biliteracy and the Indigenous Language Initiatives.**

Candace Black, World Language Associate in the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL), facilitated a presentation highlighting the progress of students earning the **NYS Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB)**. A video was shown that showed several students from various districts around the state talking about their experiences with earning the NYSSB.

Ms. Black stressed that the OBEWL is particularly proud of the fact that over 10,600 students earned the NYSSB seal last year representing 497 schools from across the state. She also expressed concern that a significant number of schools in New York State still do not offer the Seal of Biliteracy as an option to students.

With regards to the **Indigenous Languages Initiative**, the Board was updated on the implementation of the Indigenous Language component of the NYS Standards for World Languages, which was implemented in 2021. Currently, twelve NYS public school districts offer Indigenous language programs that lead to the Seal of Biliteracy.

After the presentation, Board members discussed ideas for increasing the number of districts in NYS that offer NYSSB option.

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

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/P-12%20-%20New%20York%20State%20Seal%20of%20Biliteracy%20NYSSB%20and%20Indigenous%20Languages%20Support.pdf>

- **Update on the Rockefeller Institute Foundation Aid Formula Study**

In recent months, representatives from the Rockefeller Institute conducted five public hearings around the state to seek public feedback on issues associated with reforming the current Foundation Aid Formula. Rockefeller Institute staff are now reviewing the information that was gathered with the goal of releasing a summary report on December 1, 2024.

- **Update on 2025-2026 NYSED Budget and Legislative Initiatives**

Members of the Board of Regents State Aid Subcommittee, along with NYSED staff members facilitated a discussion on potential priority areas of focus as 2025-2026 budget discussions formally begin.

NYSED staff members provided a general review of the timeline and process for the budget development and reviewed some priorities that have already been recommended for consideration.

During the follow-up discussion, two key areas of emphasis that were brought up included:

1. The need to ensure that provisions are put in place to adequately fund the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures.
2. The importance of initiating preliminary discussions with the Governor's Office relating to Foundation Aid funding priorities before the December 1, 2024 release of the Rockefeller Institute report.

The link below includes **both** slides that were referenced during the Foundation Aid Study discussion and in the 2026-2026 Budget discussion.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/SA%20-%20Rockefeller%20Study%20on%20Foundation%20Aid%20Update%20and%20the%20Process%20for%20the%20Regents%20Budget%20and%20Legislative%20Priorities%20for%202025-2026.pdf>

- **Pathways to the High School Equivalency Diploma**

Representatives for the **Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES)** presented an overview of services provided by ACCES and reviewed the four pathway options for students to earn a High School Equivalency (HSE) Diploma.

The link below includes the slides that were used in the presentation. They outline the specific components for each of the HSE Diploma Pathways and include recent data on the number of HSE Diplomas that have been awarded in for each pathway over the past four years.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/ACCES%20-%20Pathways%20to%20the%20High%20School%20Equivalency%20Diploma.pdf>