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Summary of July 2025 Board of Regents Meeting

The Board of Regents conducted their monthly meeting on Monday, July 14, and Tuesday, July 15, 2025. Chancellor Lester Young opened the meeting with a moment of silence to honor former Board of Regents member Laura Chodos, who passed away in June.

Commissioner Rosa then read a prepared statement relating to the current controversies surrounding the recently administered **Earth Science and Living Environment Regents Exams**. The Commissioner expressed confidence that both exams were clearly aligned with the NYS learning Standards associated with each subject, and insists that the problem lies with the failure of schools to adjust instructional practices to align with the new standards.

P-12 related topics covered during the July 2025 meeting and summarized in this report include:

- **Portrait of a Graduate Update**
- **Emergency Amendment Which Extends Current Flexibilities Related to Incidental Teaching.**
- **Proposed Amendment Relating to the Regents High School Equivalency Pathways and the Use of Regents Credit Acquired Through Exemptions Toward Diploma Assessment Requirements.**

• Portrait of a Graduate Update

Commissioner Rosa introduced a presentation on updated revisions to the **Portrait of a Graduate** framework.

NYSED staff facilitated a summary of the review process that has been used to refine the framework which included discussions within NYSED advisory groups and analysis of stakeholder feedback received through the NYSED Thought Exchange website. Deputy Commissioner, Angelique Johnson-Dingle, emphasized that the **Portrait of a Graduate** serves as the foundation for guiding the

recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Graduation Measures and summarizes what it means to be a high school graduate in New York State.

The finalized version of the **Portrait of a Graduate** was originally scheduled to be presented for adoption at the November 2025 Board of Regents meeting. The Board however, after a great deal of discussion, decided to adopt the version presented on Monday afternoon to become effective immediately.

The link below includes the slides that were referenced during the presentation. They include a detailed graphic breakdown of the **Portrait of a Graduate** framework that could be a useful resource to share with students, staff, parents and community members in the future.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/FB%20Monday%20-%20NY%20Inspires-New%20York%20State%20Portrait%20of%20a%20Graduate%20.pdf>

- **Amendment Which Extends Current Flexibilities Relating to Incidental Teaching.**

The Board adopted an emergency amendment that extends previously adopted provisions which permit certified teachers to teach subjects not covered by their certification for up to 10 hours per week when a school district has no qualified teacher available. The amendment becomes effective immediately.

Below is the link to the amendment.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/725hea1.pdf>

- **Proposed Amendment Relating to High School Regents Equivalency Pathways and the Use of Credit Acquired Through Exemptions Toward Diploma Assessment Requirements.**

The Board discussed a proposed amendment that would expand provisions originally passed in March 2025 which allow a superintendent to exempt students, who have experienced a major life event that impacted their ability participate in required assessments, from Regents Exams or approved alternative assessments. The proposed amendment would expand the provisions to also include students pursuing their diploma through the High School Equivalency pathway.

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the November 2025 Board of Regents meeting.

Below is the link to the proposed amendment.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/725seaccsd1.pdf>