



EMPIRE STATE SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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Summary of September 2025 Board of Regents Meeting

The Board of Regents conducted their monthly meeting on Monday, September 8, and Tuesday, September 9, 2025. Chancellor Lester Young opened the meeting asking for a moment of silence in memory of the beloved mother of Commissioner Betty Rosa and former Board of Regents Chancellor Carlos Carballada, who both passed away recently. The Chancellor then welcomed everyone to a new school year and reaffirmed New York's shared commitment to equity and excellence for every child.

P-12 Related Topics Covered During the September 2025 Meeting and Summarized in This Report Include:

- **Update on the Implementation of the Portrait of a Graduate.**
- **Introduction of 2027 Fiscal Year Legislative and Budget Proposal Process.**
- **Review of Updated Resources for Teaching About the Holocaust and Genocides**
- **Proposed Amendment to Requirements for Schools Participating in Free School Meal Programs.**
- **Proposed Amendment Relating to New Requirements for Dual Enrollment Programs.**
- **Proposed Amendment to Regulations Associated with Protocols for Diapering and Toileting Students.**
- **Proposed Amendment Relating to Impartial Hearing Officers**

• Portrait of a Graduate Update

Deputy Commissioner Angelique Johnson Dingle introduced a presentation on the implementation of the **NYS Portrait of a Graduate**.

Dr. Jonah Schenker, District Superintendent for Ulster BOCES, presented on the instructional shifts that are occurring in his eight component districts as they work toward designing their plan for implementing the Portrait of a Graduate.

NYSED staff members also reviewed the foundational components that are being addressed in the initial stages of implementation. It was emphasized that key regulatory changes will be necessary during the initial phase of implementation. Deputy Commissioner Johnson-Dingle expressed that several amendments will be presented to the Board for approval in the coming months in the areas of:

1. Definitions of Terms
2. General School Requirements
3. PK-4 Program Requirements
4. Grades 5-8 Program Requirements
5. Diploma Requirements
6. Exiting Credentials
7. High School Equivalency Diploma
8. Home Instruction
9. Interstate Compact
10. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability
11. Summer School

Deputy Commissioner Johnson-Dingle concluded the presentation by asking stakeholders to consider three questions that NYSED staff feel would provide valuable feedback with guiding the initial stages of implementation. The questions include:

1. What types of guidance should the State Education Department provide to help educators cultivate the attributes of the Portrait of a Graduate?
2. What kinds of information do educators, students, parents, members of higher education, the business community, and the public at large, need to successfully understand the goals of the Portrait?
3. How do we ensure that the new regulations are inclusive of all students across the state?

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

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/P-12%20-New%20York%20State%20Portrait%20of%20a%20Graduate.pdf>

- **Introduction of 2027 Fiscal Year Legislative and Budget Proposal Process**

Members of the State Aid Subcommittee introduced the framework and timeline for developing the Board of Regents Budget and Legislative Priorities for the 2027 fiscal year. Regent Roger Catania reviewed some of the challenges the Board will need to consider with the current unsettled fiscal and economic environment within New York State and the potential impact of federal cuts. The timeline for budget development was also reviewed which began with gathering stakeholder feedback this past summer and ends with to final Board approval of the 2027 proposal in December.

The link below includes the slides referenced during the presentation.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/SA%20-%202026-2027%20Regents%20Budget%20and%20Legislative.pdf>

- **Review of Updated Resources Available for Teaching About the Holocaust and Genocides**

NYSED staff, representatives from the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center of NY, and staff members from the New York State Archives Partnership Trust, presented an overview of an updated online platform that includes enhanced resources connected to teaching about the Holocaust and other Genocides.

Executive Director of the NYSED Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Dr. Diane Wynne, reviewed why it is so important to teach about the Holocaust and other genocides. Dr. Wynne also outlined the scope of how the new platform functions and reviewed the key priorities that guided the revisions. New areas of emphasis within the curricula include alignment with the Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework and with the NYS Social Studies Learning Standards for Literacy.

Below you will find the link to the slides that were referenced during the presentation which include specific lesson plan examples from the new Online Resource Guide.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/FB%20Monday%20-%20Teaching%20the%20Holocaust%20and%20Other%20Genocides%20-Online%20Resource%20Platform%20for%20Educators.pdf>

- **Proposed Amendment to Requirements for Schools Participating in Free School Meal Programs**

In response to a newly enacted statute approved by the legislature, the Commissioner has been directed to require all school districts that participate in National School Lunch or School Breakfast programs to develop procedures that promote awareness of the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** in their communities.

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the January 2026 Board of Regents meeting to become effective on January 28, 2026.

The link below includes the actual proposed amendment and contains several recommended strategies for building community awareness of the SNAP program.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/925p12d1.pdf>

- **Proposed Amendment Relating to New Requirements for Dual Enrollment Programs**

In order to comply with a statute passed by the legislature, the Board discussed the adoption of a statewide policy relating to Dual Enrollment programs. The proposed policy changes will require:

1. Provisions that better clarify the definition of a Dual Enrollment Program.
2. More specific eligibility requirements for schools that wish to participate.
3. Expanded data reporting requirements for participating schools.

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the January 2026 Board of Regents meeting to become effective on March 27, 2026.

Below you will find a link to the slides used during presentation which include more information on the specific requirements associated with the proposed amendment.

<https://www.regents.nysesd.gov/sites/regents/files/P12-HE%20-%20Proposed%20Amendment%20to%20Establish%20a%20Statewide%20Dual%20Enrollment%20Policy.pdf>

- **Proposed Amendment to Regulations Regarding Protocols for Diapering and Toileting Students in Public School**

The Board discussed proposed regulatory changes that establish clear age-appropriate procedures for diapering and toileting students. The new policy will require:

- Annual training on health and safety procedures to all relevant school personnel
- Ensuring that every restroom provides adequate privacy and appropriate accessibility for students, including students with disabilities.
- Ensuring the diaper changing area is operationally safe, consistently maintained, and appropriately equipped.
- Ensuring that all supports, services and specialized equipment are available in accordance with IEPs.
- Students not be suspended, disenrolled, or excluded from school participation based on their toileting status.

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the January 2026 Board of Regents meeting to become effective on March 27, 2026.

The link below provides the actual amendment proposal and includes a detailed description of the newly proposed requirements.

<https://www.regents.nysesd.gov/sites/regents/files/925p12d2revised.pdf>

- **Proposed Amendment Relating to Impartial Hearing Officers**

Due to recent complaints filed with the Office of Special Education's Due Process Unit, the Board discussed a proposed amendment which focuses on clarifying both the role of Impartial Hearing Officers, and the complaint process relating to alleged misconduct or incompetence. The amendment specifically addresses:

1. A revised definition that better clarifies the role of an Impartial Hearing officer.
2. The time frame for when a complaint may be filed.
3. The criteria upon which a complaint can be dismissed.
4. More clarity for what constitutes hearing officer misconduct and/or incompetence.
5. The types of relief that may be provided by the Commissioner if misconduct or incompetence of an Impartial Hearing officer has been established.

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the January 2026 Board of Regents meeting to become effective on January 28, 2026.

The link below provides a more detailed description of the proposed amendment.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/925seaccessd1revised.pdf>