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Dear ESSAA Member,

David Frank, the NYSED Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Education Policy, periodically shares important updates regarding New York State Education Laws, Commissioner's Regulations, and Federal Guidelines with our leadership team. This information is valuable for public school administrators as they carry out their daily responsibilities. Below is the latest update from NYSED, which includes essential "Must Know" information on various key state and federal policies and programs that impact our members across the state.

As information evolves, we'll keep you informed about developments affecting New York State school administrators. Note, the most critical time sensitive information is labeled 'MUST KNOW.'

Your ESSAA Team

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#### **ACTION REQUIRED**

##### **Annual Registration of All New Individuals Classified as Legally Blind for Procurement of Adapted Educational Materials Produced by the American Printing House for the Blind**

- You are receiving this communication to inform you of the [annual registration](#) of all new individuals classified as legally blind for procurement of adapted educational materials produced by the American Printing House for the Blind.
- The annual registration form is only for individuals who are legally blind and newly enrolled in your school/agency by January 1, 2025. Please do not re-register an individual if they have been previously registered by your school/agency or another school/agency unless the individual is new to your school before January 1, 2025.
- Registration is due no later than **March 1, 2025**.
- *Questions may be directed to the New York State Resource Center for the Visually Impaired (NYSRCVI) in Batavia, New York at (585) 343-5384, ext. 207.*

#### **ACTION REQUIRED**

##### **Dates Published for the Submission and Certification of Special Education Events Data for State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicators 11 and 12 (attachment)**

- The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is notifying school districts of the requirements for the 2024-2025 submission and certification of Special Education Events Data for SPP Indicators 11 (Child Find) and 12 (Early Childhood Transition).
- All school districts are required to submit special education events data for all preschool and school-age students corresponding to four distinct periods published in the attached notification.
- Data submissions will be subject to NYSED review based on a state monitoring plan to ensure all school districts are reviewed at least once during a six-year period, with an annual review of the New York City Department of Education, and continued monitoring of school districts with identified noncompliance.
- *For questions related to data and data submission, please contact the Office of Information and*

Reporting Services at [Datasupport](#) with the subject line “Yearly Submission of SE Events Data.”

- For questions related to the verification of compliance and/or regulatory requirements, please contact the [Special Education Quality Assurance \(SEQA\) Unit](#) located in your region of the state or email [seqa@nysesd.gov](mailto:seqa@nysesd.gov).

## MUST KNOW

### Superintendent Statement for the Computer Science SOCE

- The Superintendent Statement for the Computer Science SOCE is no longer available in TEACH.
- When entering a Superintendent Statement for the Computer Science SOCE, please use this link instead: <https://forms.office.com/r/5QLSQ8ddnE>
- Please email [otiaadmin@nysesd.gov](mailto:otiaadmin@nysesd.gov) with any questions. Note: this email address is only for school administrators; it is not for applicants or the general public.*

## MUST KNOW

### Internship Certificates

- Effective June 1, 2025, all Internship certificates must have a Superintendent Statement Support Commitment entered into the TEACH account of the applicant for the certificate to be issued.
- This statement ensures that the LEA has agreed to support the candidate and understands the conditions of the certificate.
- Please email [otiaadmin@nysesd.gov](mailto:otiaadmin@nysesd.gov) with any questions. Note: this email address is only for school administrators; it is not for applicants or the general public.*

## MUST KNOW

### Dates for 2026 Regents Examination Periods and the Elementary and Intermediate Testing Schedule (attachments)

- You are receiving this communication to help your school and district plan their calendars for the 2025-26 school year. Please refer to the attached memos “Regents Exam dates 2025\_26.pdf” and “Elem Interim testing schedule 2025\_26.pdf” for further information.
- The Regents Examination schedules for January, June, and August within these dates will be announced before the 2024-25 school year ends.
- Questions may be directed to the Office of State Assessment at 518-474-9502 or [emscassessinfo@nysesd.gov](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysesd.gov).*

## MUST KNOW

### Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Policy and Tools to Guide Decision-Making and Implementation

- The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has updated its [Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Policy and Tools to Guide Decision-Making and Implementation - December 2024](#) publication.
- This guidance document was developed to assist school personnel in making appropriate decisions for considering, documenting, and implementing testing accommodations for students with disabilities.
- This guidance document supersedes the guidance in the NYSED May 2006 Test Access and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.
- Updates in the guidance document cover areas including, but not limited to, computer-based testing, assistive technology accommodations, tests read, and the procedures for the use of a scribe. New questions were added to B-4, C-3, C-5, and E-3. New information was added to A-7 and E-2.
- This guidance document should be used in conjunction with the [School Administrator's Manuals](#) for all assessments and examinations included in the New York State testing program.
- For questions or technical assistance, email NYSED staff at [spced@nysesd.gov](mailto:spced@nysesd.gov).*

## FYI

### Public School Registration (PSR) Process

- In accordance with section 100.21(c) of the Commissioner’s Regulations, school districts must complete the Public School Registration process if they plan to make any of the following changes to a public school for the 2025–2026 school year:
  - open a new public school;
  - close an existing public school;
  - modify the grade organization of an existing public school, including adding PreK; and/or
  - change the location of a school.
- School districts considering or anticipating making any changes are encouraged to send an e-mail to [SchoolRegistration@nysesd.gov](mailto:SchoolRegistration@nysesd.gov) with a summary of the proposed changes.
- Beginning in early January 2025, the Department will provide Public School Registration forms in the [NYSED Application Business Portal](#).
- The deadline to submit applications for opening a new school and/or making changes to existing schools for the 2025–2026 school year is March 1, 2025.
- More information is available on the [Public School Registration website](#).
- If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Accountability via e-mail at [SchoolRegistration@nysesd.gov](mailto:SchoolRegistration@nysesd.gov) or via phone at (518) 486-3532.*

**FYI****Share Your Classroom Highlights with the Office of Early Learning**

- The Office of Early Learning is seeking classroom highlight submissions for our UPK and P-3 Newsletters.
- If you are interested in sharing a success story from your district regarding classroom community, differentiated instruction, play-based learning, or any innovative and exciting instructional practices, please consider submitting it to [OEL@nysesd.gov](mailto:OEL@nysesd.gov).
- Submissions should be from Prekindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- Please include the following in your submission:
- Subject: P-3 or UPK Spotlight Submission
- Local Education Agency Name
- Teacher Name (if applicable)
- Photos of the success story in action (students must have a photo release on file with the district)
- 1-2 paragraphs describing the success story in action
- We look forward to hearing from you!
- *Please reach out to the Office of Early Learning with any questions at [OEL@nysesd.gov](mailto:OEL@nysesd.gov).*

**FYI****Play-Based Learning Resources from the Office of Early Learning**

- The Office of Early Learning understands the importance of play across the early elementary grades.
- The following resources are available to assist districts in implementing play-based learning in the classroom:
- [The Value of Play: Play-Based Learning for P-3 Students webinar](#)
- [Play-Based Learning Webpage](#)
- [NYSED Office of Early Learning Video Series](#)
- *Please reach out to the Office of Early Learning with any questions at [OEL@nysesd.gov](mailto:OEL@nysesd.gov).*

**FYI****Invitation to Participate in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Invent2Prevent, Student-Led, Peer-Developed Initiative to Prevent Targeted School Violence (attachment)**

- New York State high schools are invited to participate in a free school safety and prevention program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) beginning January 2025 through May 2025.
- Invent2Prevent challenges high school students to create and implement peer-developed initiatives, products, and tools to prevent targeted violence and hate in ways "they believe" will be most effective in their schools and communities. In prior years, several New York schools have participated in this extraordinary program.
- The program is free of charge and has been sponsored by the DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3) for the last four years. Invent2Prevent is managed by EdVenture Partners who work with students throughout the entire project period in a guiding, mentoring, and coaching capacity.
- Each high school receives a \$1,000 budget to implement their Invent2Prevent project. Top teams present and participate in a [national competition](#) in Washington D.C. in June, all expenses paid, and compete for \$9,000 in cash awards. These experiential Invent2Prevent projects are developed by youth for youth and are extremely creative and effective.
- Thirty-five spots will be made available to high schools for the January 2025 through May 2025 academic period on a first come, first served basis.
- *Additional information about the program is included in the attached "I2P INFO SHEET.pdf." For more information and if you are interested in participating, please contact Tony Sgro, CEO of EdVenture Partners, at [tony@edventurepartners.com](mailto:tony@edventurepartners.com) or (415) 264-7666.*
- *Questions may also be directed to the Office of Student Support Services at [safetyplans@nysesd.gov](mailto:safetyplans@nysesd.gov).*

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[Special Education Events Data](#)[Regents Exam Dates 2025-2026](#)[U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Invent2Prevent](#)[Elementary Intermediate Testing Schedule 2025-2026](#)

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