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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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**FYI**

**Upcoming 2025-26 School Year Accountability System Fact Sheets Now Available**

- The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has released a series of informational fact sheets about the New York State Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability system's Reimagine Phase, which will begin with the 2025-26 school year, based on 2024-25 school year results.
- The Reimagine Phase fact sheets provide general overviews of:
  - the transition from the Rebuild Phase, which applied to the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years, to the Reimagine Phase;
  - major components of the Reimagine Phase accountability system;
  - accountability support model identification and exit criteria; and
  - accountability indicators.
- Fact sheets can be found on the [NYSED School and District Accountability Resources and Data webpage](#). Additional resources about the Reimagine Phase, including webinars, will also be posted on this webpage in the coming months.
- *Questions about these fact sheets can be directed to [accountinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:accountinfo@nysed.gov).*

**FYI**

**Public Comment Request for Recently Approved Amendments to the Accountability System under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (attachment)**

- The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is accepting public comment

on amendments to Sections 100.19 and 100.21 of Commissioner's Regulations. These amendments align with the recently approved federal amendments to the accountability section of New York State's consolidated State plan under ESSA for the 2025-26 school year based on the 2024-25 school year results and thereafter.

- Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, these amendments to the accountability system will initiate the Reimagine Phase, a phase focused on creating a stable, long-term system based on ongoing stakeholder feedback and data modeling.
- The United States Department of Education (USED) approved the amendments to the accountability section of New York State's ESSA plan on January 8, 2025. The USED-approved New York State ESSA plan can be found on the [Approved New York State ESSA Plan page](#).
- The [Board of Regents approved amendments](#) to Sections 100.19 and 100.21 of the Commissioner's Regulations under emergency action at the February 2025 Board of Regents meeting. Upon public comment review, amendments will be presented for permanent adoption at the June 2025 Board of Regents meeting.
- Comments on the proposed regulations will be accepted through April 28, 2025, and may be emailed to [RegComments@nysed.gov](mailto:RegComments@nysed.gov).
- Resources for understanding the Reimagine Phase of the accountability system are available on the [NYSED School and District Accountability Resources and Data webpage](#).
- *Questions regarding the accountability system may be directed to [accountinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:accountinfo@nysed.gov).*

## FYI

### 2025 National Youth Science Camp – Application Portal Now Open

- Applications are now being accepted from **high school seniors** and **juniors** to represent New York State at the 2025 [National Youth Science Camp \(NYSCamp\)](#). This in-person camp will be held from July 10 to August 2, 2025, in West Virginia.
- The NYSCamp is a science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) opportunity. The camp will provide daily lectures and seminars with leading scientist-directed studies alongside visiting and resident STEAM professionals, and students will engage in activities in the natural, physical, and computer sciences, and creative arts.
- Housing, meals, transportation, and supplies are provided to participants at **no cost**.
- The deadline to apply is **February 28, 2025**.
- For more information about the program, including eligibility requirements, application instructions, and the link to the application portal, please visit the [2025 NYSCamp website](#).
- *Questions may be directed to [nyscamp@nysacademy.org](mailto:nyscamp@nysacademy.org).*

## FYI

### P-3 Instructional Approach Resources from the Office of Early Learning

- The Office of Early Learning has compiled resources to aid districts in enhancing coordination from prekindergarten through third grade by ensuring horizontal and vertical consistency across grades.
- The [PreK to Third Grade Learning Continuum webpage](#) provides access to various resources, including:
  - [The P-3 Instructional Guidance Toolkit](#)
  - [P-3 Instructional Guidance Toolkit – Collected Tools](#)
  - Recorded webinars on the P-3 Instructional Approach
- *Please reach out to the Office of Early Learning at [OEL@nysed.gov](mailto:OEL@nysed.gov) with any questions.*

**FYI****Office of Early Learning Releases P-3 Literacy Best Practices Webinar Recording and FAQ**

- On January 7, 2025, the Office of Early Learning debuted the P-3 Literacy Best Practices in a statewide webinar event.
- The recorded webinar, as well as slides from the presentation, are now available on the Office of Early Learning website.
- In addition, questions from the event have been answered and are now posted on the website under P-3 Literacy Practices Frequently Asked Questions. This document will be updated in the future if needed.
- Additional information about the P-3 attestation process will be released in the coming months.
- *Please contact the Office of Early Learning with any questions at [OEL@nysed.gov](mailto:OEL@nysed.gov).*

**FYI****Uplifting All Students Statewide Conference - March 19, 2025 (attachment)**

- The New York State Education Department (NYSED), in collaboration with the BOCES and Big 5 school districts, will be hosting a statewide conference on March 19, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at designated BOCES and Big 5 sites. This event, which will be a hybrid conference along with in-person discussion, will provide district and school administrators, leaders, and educators with an opportunity to learn about how school districts across the state are implementing programs that enhance student identity and overall well-being, partnering with families and communities, and collaborating with a range of stakeholders to support all students.
- Promising practices will be shared from districts across the state with opportunities for collaboration with colleagues.
- Individuals must attend in person and register through their local BOCES or Big 5 site.
- *Registration questions can be sent to Amalia Schiff at [Amalia.Schiff@nysed.gov](mailto:Amalia.Schiff@nysed.gov).*

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