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Dear ESSAA Member,

Please see the update below from NYSED, which includes “Must Know” details regarding changes in required hours of instruction during suspensions. We will continue to keep you apprised of developments affecting school administrators in New York State.

Your ESSAA Team

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#### **MUST KNOW**

##### **School District Roles and Responsibilities as Established by Section 511 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**

- The New York State Education Department Office of Instructional Support and Office of Adult Continuing Career Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) have posted a [memorandum](#), “*School District Roles and Responsibilities as Established by Section 511 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in Assisting Students with Disabilities to Maximize Opportunities to Achieve Competitive Integrated Employment*,” to remind school districts of certain requirements under WIOA regarding assisting students with disabilities in achieving competitive integrated employment.
- As part of transitioning from school to employment, students should earn at least a minimum wage and be employed in integrated settings working alongside non-disabled co-workers. However, suppose competitive integrated employment is not an option. In that case, the requirements pursuant to section 511 of WIOA, and outlined in the [Joint Agreement](#) for the Coordination of Transition Services between the New York State Education Department (NYSED) Adult Career and Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) and Office of Special Education (OSE), should be followed.
- *Staff from [ACCES-VR](#) are available to provide technical assistance and consultation to school district personnel about the regulatory requirements of section 511 regarding students seeking or continuing subminimum wage employment.*

#### **MUST KNOW**

##### **Instructional Hours for Students Suspended from School**

- In a Formal Opinion of Counsel, the Department required schools to increase the number of instructional hours provided to suspended students to comply with the requirements of Education Law §3214.
- Students in elementary grades K-6 are required to receive ten hours of instruction weekly.
- Students in secondary grades 7-12 are required to have fifteen hours of instruction weekly.
- Schools and districts that are using contractors to provide such instruction should review the Updated Clarifying Information and Q and A to Contract Instruction memo.
- *If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Student Support Services at [studentsupportservices@nysed.gov](mailto:studentsupportservices@nysed.gov).*

#### **FYI**

#### **Draft Dates for 2026 Regents Examination Periods and Elementary- and Intermediate-Level Testing Schedules for Comments (linked below)**

- You are receiving this communication to allow you to provide feedback to NYSED on the 2026 examination dates.
- For information regarding the tentative 2026 examination dates, please click here for the document titled [Tentative Exam dates 2025-26.pdf](#).
- *Feedback is requested by December 2, 2024, and can be sent to [emsctesting@nysed.gov](mailto:emsctesting@nysed.gov).*
- *Questions can be directed to the Office of State Assessment at [emsctesting@nysed.gov](mailto:emsctesting@nysed.gov).*

#### **FYI**

#### **Social Emotional Learning and Positive Behavior Resources from the Office of Early Learning**

- The Office of Early Learning has several resources available regarding social-emotional learning and encouraging positive behavior in young learners.
- The [Social Emotional Learning: Building Programmatic Practice webinar](#) includes topics on creating nurturing environments, enhancing academic outcomes, and building a foundation for lifelong well-being.
- The [Positive Behavior Guidance webpage](#) provides resources for educators and families to foster positive interactions in the prekindergarten environment.
- Additional resources and webinars are available on the [Office of Early Learning website](#).
- *Any questions can be directed to the Office of Early Learning at [OEL@nysed.gov](mailto:OEL@nysed.gov).*

#### **FYI**

#### **District and School-Level Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Practices Survey**

- We value your insight! NYSED is surveying SEL practices in districts and schools and gathering feedback on current and future SEL resources.
- The feedback gathered will help identify promising practices in New York, provide a platform for sharing effective approaches, and guide future SEL initiatives to support districts across the state.
- We encourage educators, students, administrators, administrative and student support staff, parents, and community members to participate.
- The [survey](#) is open from November 21<sup>st</sup> through December 19<sup>th</sup>.
- *Questions may be directed to the Office of Student Support Services at [studentsupportservices@nysed.gov](mailto:studentsupportservices@nysed.gov).*

**FYI**

**Free Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and Entrepreneurship Summer Opportunities for Students**

- The Appalachian Regional Commission has opened applications for its Appalachian Entrepreneurship Academy (AEA) and Appalachian STEM Academy (STEM). Applications are due by **December 6, 2024**.
- The AEA will provide an experiential learning opportunity for 26 high school students from July 5-18, 2025, at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina.
- The STEM Academy offers a hands-on learning experience for Appalachia's middle and high school students, as well as high school teachers, interested in STEM. STEM academy sessions will take place on the following dates:
  - Middle School STEM Academy Session 1: July 5-11, 2025
  - Middle School STEM Academy Session 2: July 12-18, 2025
  - High School STEM Academy: July 5-18, 2025
- These opportunities are open to students and high school teachers in the counties served by the Commission (Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Chemung, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, and Tompkins counties).
- *For questions about these programs, please contact George Korchowsky from the New York Department of State at [george.korchowsky@dos.ny.gov](mailto:george.korchowsky@dos.ny.gov).*

**FYI**

**• New York State STEM Incentive Program**

- The New York State STEM Incentive Program application will open December 1, 2024, for students attending a SUNY or CUNY college.
- To be eligible, students must:
  - Apply in their senior year of high school.
  - Be ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class at a NYS high school.
  - Be enrolled in a qualifying full-time undergraduate STEM program at a NYS SUNY or CUNY college.
  - Be a legal resident of New York State and have lived there continuously for 12 months.
  - Agree to live and work in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics in NYS for five years.
- Students who do not meet residency requirements may qualify through the NYS Dream Act.
- *For a description of the program and contact information, visit the [\[hesc.ny.gov/STEM\]](https://hesc.ny.gov/STEM)STEM Incentive Program website.*

**FYI**

**New York State Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Part B State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report**

- You are receiving this communication to notify you that the New York State (NYS) Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR) is now posted on the Office of Special Education's SPP/APR webpage.
- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires each state to have in place a SPP, submitted every six years, that evaluates its efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of the IDEA and describes how the state will improve such implementation. States must report annually on

- their performance towards the SPP targets in the APR.
- Based on the information from the NYS FFY 2022 SPP/APR, other State-reported data, and other publicly available information, the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs has determined that New York State needs assistance in implementing the requirements of the IDEA. Information regarding the NYS 2024 Determination under section 616(d) of the IDEA is now posted on the Office of Special Education (OSE) [NYS Determination under the 616](#) webpage.
  - *Questions may be directed to the OSE Policy Unit at 518-473-2878 or [SPECED@nysed.gov](mailto:SPECED@nysed.gov).*

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