



## **EMPIRE STATE SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION**

Supporting school leaders, every day.

### **Summary of April 2023 Stakeholders Meeting**

The **Empire State Supervisors and Administrators Association (ESSAA)** held its monthly Stakeholder Meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, via videoconference with Commissioner of Education, Betty Rosa; Deputy Commissioner, P12 Instructional Support, Angelique Johnson-Dingle; Senior Deputy Commissioner, Jim Baldwin; Executive Director of Educational Initiatives and Strategic Innovation, David Frank; Deputy Commissioner, P-12 Operational Supports, Jason Harmon; and Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Accountability, Theresa Billington.

ESSAA was represented at the meeting by ESSAA Executive Director, Mike Starvaggi; ESSAA Executive Vice President, Skip Voorneveld; ESSAA Director of Information Resources, Celia Strino; ESSAA Vice-President for Professional Development, Shelley Baldwin-Nye; ESSAA Vice President, Dr. Shireen Fasciglione; ESSAA Vice President, John Rickert; ESSAA Vice President, John Zampaglione, ESSAA Vice President, Anthony Baxter; ESSAA member, Jennifer Martino; ESSAA member, Vince DiGrandi; ESSAA member, Mike Moran; and Regents/NYSED Liaison, Paul Scampini.

#### **Specific Topics discussed during the meeting included:**

##### **Accountability Restart Update**

NYSED Assistant Commissioner for Accountability, Theresa Billington, provided an update on the Accountability Restart initiative. The Assistant Commissioner reviewed the timeline for the next three school years and outlined the various accountability indicators that will be reintroduced during that period. NYSED is anticipating that as planning for the updated accountability system continues,

baselines for the new 3-8 assessments will be revised. It is also anticipated that as work continues with the Graduation Measures Initiative, many high school accountability indicators will change after the 2025-2026 school year.

Key components of the Accountability Restart which were referenced in the discussion include:

1. Grade 4 science assessment scores will not count towards calculation of the school performance index.
2. Student Growth Scores will be shared only for informational purposes to help support instructional planning.
3. High school Social Studies assessment scores will not contribute to the school performance index.
4. College, Career and Civic Readiness Index scores will be reported for informational purposes only.

Mr. Baxter expressed concerns that students who were in middle school during the pandemic and have transitioned into high school, will struggle with the rigor of Regents level courses. Deputy Commissioner Johnson-Dingle responded that the special appeal process remains in effect through August 2023, as an effort to assist these students with the transition. The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized, however, that a student must pass the course to be eligible for the appeal.

During the discussion, Assistant Commissioner Billington referred to a 2-page informational document NYSED has prepared which highlights the key components of the Accountability Restart. The chart provides an overview of the two-year transition plan and also outlines the exit criteria for schools and districts designated for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI).

[A link to the chart can be found here.](#)

## **Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education (CRSE) Resources**

Director of Educational Initiatives and Strategic Innovation, David Frank, encouraged participation in the newly created webinar series which focuses on promising culturally-responsive sustaining practices that are being implemented in school districts across the state.

Recorded videos are now available on the NYSED CRSE website.

<https://www.nysed.gov/crs>

## **Intentionality of DASA as it Relates to proposed Discipline Reform Regulations**

ESSAA member Jenn Martino raised concerns regarding the **Recommendations for Reducing Disparities in and Reforming School Discipline in NYS Report** as it relates to the intentionality of the Dignity For All

Students Act (DASA). Ms. Martino expressed that current DASA regulations force administrators into the role of investigator, prosecutor, jury and judge as they address incidents. She went on to stress the need for administrators to be more supported in their efforts to promote student safety, a positive school culture, and explore more effective solutions that are not based solely on suspension numbers.

Commissioner Rosa responded that this idea has been frequently talked about during discussions within the Education Department and with legislators. Executive Director of Educational Initiatives and Strategic Innovation, David Frank, also emphasized that the Reforming School Discipline Report is just the beginning of a long process of debate and discussion as work continues in implementing more effective school discipline guidelines.

## **APPR Update**

Prior to the meeting, NYSED shared the most recent version of the newly proposed APPR regulations for Teachers and Education Leaders for our group to review. Mr. Scampini responded that there are some very positive points of emphasis in the proposal including:

- A more formative approach to the evaluation process with the integration of multiple measures of performance indicators.
- Implementing the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSELS) as the guiding framework for the rating process.
- Decreased emphasis on the use of student test scores in evaluations.

Currently, the proposal includes teachers and principals together in the same document with little or no delineation of the differences between the two roles. Mr. Scampini expressed the need to develop two separate documents that specifically delineate the skills associated with teaching and with the role of an educational leader.

Mr. Starvaggi expressed that, historically, principal APPR evaluations have not received the same level of attention as APPR for teachers, which has had a negative effect on their effectiveness and credibility. Commissioner Rosa responded that she understands the concerns and that the issue will be addressed as the APPR proposals are further developed.

## **Additional Information Not Covered During Meeting**

Some agenda items were either not addressed or not fully discussed during the meeting due to time constraints. Commissioner Rosa shared a document with our group which was prepared by NYSED staff to provide more detailed information on certain agenda topics. A link to the documents can be found below. Topics covered include:

- Computer Science Certificate or Statement of Continued Eligibility (SOCE) after September 1, 2024
- Expansion of the NYSED Early Learning Office with additional staff, resources and support.
- Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education (CRSE) Webinar Series
- Individual Arts Assessment Pathway (IAAP)

- Proposed changes to time extensions/reissuances for educator certificates

**[ESSAA Stakeholder Meeting - Annotated](#)**

***ESSAA Members:***

***If you have any feedback on the foregoing issues or would like to suggest a topic to be addressed with the Commissioner at an upcoming meeting, please e-mail us at [info@essaa.org](mailto:info@essaa.org). New topics will be submitted to our Stakeholder Committee for consideration.***