



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

Supporting school leaders, every day.

### **Summary of November 2023 Stakeholders Meeting**

The **Empire State Supervisors and Administrators Association (ESSAA)** held its monthly Stakeholder Meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, via videoconference. Participants representing NYSED included Commissioner of Education, Betty Rosa; Deputy Commissioner, P12 Instructional Support, Angelique Johnson-Dingle; and Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Educational Policy, David Frank.

ESSAA was represented at the meeting by Executive Director, Mike Starvaggi; Executive Vice President, Skip Voorneveld; Director of Information Resources, Celia Strino; Vice President, Dr. Shireen Fasciglione; Vice President, John Rickert; Vice President, Shelley Baldwin Nye; Vice President, John Zampaglione; Director of Professional Learning Eva Jones; ESSAA member, Jennifer Martino; ESSAA member, Mike Moran; ESSAA member, Vince DiGrandi; ESSAA member, Lisa O’Neill; and Regents/NYSED Liaison, Paul Scampini.

**Important Note:** Recently, in an effort to make Stakeholder Meetings more productive, NYSED is has begun providing ESSAA representatives with a written summary of topics they will be addressing, prior to the meeting. The summary includes updated background information, data, and links to additional guidance and resources on each of the areas being discussed. The summary is presented in a bulleted format, is easy to read, and includes useful talking points relating to the many initiatives that are being worked on at NYSED which can be shared with colleagues and staff members.

The informational summary for this meeting is available as an attachment at the end of this meeting report.

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

#### **Updated Guidance on Virtual Instruction**

Deputy Commissioner Johnson-Dingle provided an update on proposed regulatory amendments which seek to provide clarity and intentionally separate “remote instruction” from “virtual instruction.” The proposed regulations will more clearly define the parameters under which schools may provide the different modes

of K-12 instruction, and will include specific provisions regarding who is eligible to deliver virtual instruction.

The detailed proposal will be introduced at the upcoming December 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Regents meeting. A comprehensive summary of the amendment will be included in the ESSAA December Board of Regents meeting report.

### **Accountability Determination Update**

Commissioner Rosa shared the timeline for the release of **Preliminary Accountability Determinations**. It is anticipated that they scores were released to the field on December 4, 2023 with a two week appeal window that runs through December 21, 2023. Commissioner Rosa emphasized that appeals will not be accepted after the deadline.

### **Growth Data Distribution**

Commissioner Rosa shared that **Growth Data** relating to state assessments was released on November 30, 2023, and that the reports include both adjusted and unadjusted accountability growth data. Unadjusted measures account only for a student's prior achievement while adjusted measures include both prior achievement and modifications for certain groups such as ELL students and students with disabilities.

The memo attached to the results includes a survey that will gather feedback to inform how NYSED will use growth data to determine accountability ratings in the future. Commissioner Rosa expressed that the calculation of growth score data is an expensive process, and that the survey feedback will assist NYSED with determining how useful the data is in assisting school improvement efforts.

### **Graduation Measures Update**

The meeting concluded with an update and discussion on the recently released recommendations of the **Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures (BRC)**. Deputy Commissioner Johnson-Dingle shared that, in the coming months, NYSED will begin reviewing the proposals, and analyze the programmatic and regulatory changes that would be necessary to implement the recommendations. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that it will take significant time to thoughtfully consider fiscal and legal implications and assess the time which will be needed for professional learning as recommendations are implemented.

Deputy Commissioner Johnson-Dingle also emphasized that NYSED will actively solicit stakeholder feedback throughout the process. ESSAA representative Eva Jones stated that our organization is very interested in participating in the next phase of the initiative and that the ESSAA executive board will encourage our members to actively participate in providing feedback.

ESSAA member Jennifer Martino stressed the need for Graduation Measures recommendations to be aligned with post-secondary course work, and emphasized that higher education institutions need to be included in the review and approval process. Commissioner Rosa responded that she has been meeting with SUNY Chancellor, John King, and CUNY Chancellor, Felix Matos Rodriguez, to discuss the impact of the

recommendations on higher education, and assured us that the implementation timeline will reflect a P-20 approach.

Mr. Scampini asked for an update on the expanded use of performance assessments which has been a key focus area of the BRC. Commissioner Rosa expressed that, despite the challenges of carrying them out on a large scale, performance assessments are an excellent way for students to demonstrate a deeper level of learning. The Commissioner added that the BRC looked at both national and international performance assessment models and found many promising examples of how they effectively measure applied learning. Deputy Commissioner Johnson-Dingle noted that they have also observed that the use of performance assessments can indirectly have a very positive impact on classroom instructional approaches.

Mr. Scampini acknowledged the potential value of performance assessments on both instruction and measuring applied learning, but expressed concerns that they are very difficult and time-consuming to administer on a large scale. He stressed the need for NYSED to remain aware of the challenges associated with large scale administration as recommendations are developed.

Commissioner Rosa reminded us that applications for the **Performance-Based Learning and Assessment Networks (PLAN) Pilot Program** are still being accepted. Application information can be found in the link below.

<https://www.nysed.gov/plan-pilot/plan-pilot>

Below you will also find a link to the summary of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures recommendations:

<https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/programs/grad-measures/nys-blue-ribbon-commission-graduation-measures-report.pdf>

### **NYSED Agenda Summary Notes**

To request a copy of ESSAA's Stakeholder Summary Annotated Agenda (informational summary NYSED provided on each of the topics discussed during the meeting). Also included, but not discussed at the meeting, is guidance on future COVID Funding Expenditures, please email [bberry@essaa.org](mailto:bberry@essaa.org).

### ***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.***