



EMPIRE STATE SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

Supporting school leaders, every day.

Summary of November 2024 Stakeholders Meeting

The **Empire State Supervisors and Administrators Association (ESSAA)** held their monthly Stakeholder Meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, via videoconference. Participants representing NYSED included Commissioner, Betty Rosa; Senior Deputy Commissioner for Education Policy, Jeffrey Matteson; Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Educational Policy, David Frank; and Deputy Commissioner, P-12 Operational Supports, Jason Harmon.

ESSAA was represented at the meeting by ESSAA President, Carol Conklin-Spillane; Executive Director, Mike Starvaggi; Executive Vice President, Skip Voorneveld; Director of Information Resources, Celia Strino; ESSAA Vice President, John Rickert; Director of Professional Learning, Eva Jones; ESSAA Vice President, Jesimae Ossorio; ESSAA Vice President, Lisa O'Neill; Vice President for Professional Development, Shelley Baldwin-Nye; ESSAA Vice President, John Zampaglione; ESSAA Member, Jennifer Martino; ESSAA Member, Alan Ingraham; ESSAA Member, Vince DiGrandi; and Regents/NYSED Liaison, Paul Scampini.

Important Note:

The October/November Informational Summary provided by NYSED prior to the meeting is available as an attachment at the end of this report. The summary provides updated background information and links to additional guidance on current issues not discussed during the meeting including:

- 1. Proposed Changes Creating Flexibilities Related to Teacher Certification Exam Requirements.**
- 2. Proposed Amendments Which Establish a New Professional Administrator Certificate.**
- 3. APPR Update**
- 4. Science of Reading & Early Learning/Early Literacy**
- 5. Path Forward/Literacy Initiative Update**
- 6. Information Relating to Substantial Equivalence**

This Month's Meeting Focused on The Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures (BRC).

Commissioner Rosa began the discussion by presenting a brief overview of the recently released recommendations from the **Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures (BRC)**. She commended NYSED staff members who presented the proposal at the November Board of Regents meeting and shared that NYSED has made the presentation available online (see link below). The Commissioner encourages all educators to view the video to gain a better background understanding of the stakeholder feedback and research that guided the proposal. The Commissioner also stressed the BRC's consistent focus on the components of the **Portrait of a Graduate** as the recommendations were developed.

Deputy Commissioner Matteson emphasized that as the proposal is further developed, NYSED continues to focus on four guiding questions:

1. What do we want students to know and be able to do?
2. How do we know that they have achieved the learning goal?
3. What do we do if they have not achieved the learning goal?
4. What do you do for students who have clearly achieved the learning goal so they can expand their learning.

Mrs. Conklin Spillane asked about the status of the already established Learning Standards and if the Social/Emotional Standards are included in BRC discussions. Deputy Commissioner Matteson responded that, while there are current standards, there are too many of them. He went on to say that NYSED is working to pare down what is in place and develop **priority standards** that more closely align with the Portrait of a Graduate criteria. Commissioner Rosa echoed Deputy Commissioner Matteson's comments stating that the current learning standards have too much breadth, and lack the depth that allows students to truly demonstrate and apply their learning.

Deputy Commissioner Harmon stated that once priority standards are aligned with the Portrait of a Graduate criteria, NYSED will be able to move to a more consistent assessment format that includes clear performance level descriptors and more realistic rubrics for how the achievement of learning standards can be effectively measured.

Mrs. Conklin-Spillane asked how the integration of BRC recommendations would affect the current Carnegie Credit System that is used for monitoring the credit hours students earn toward graduation. Commissioner Rosa responded that this is a major issue that will need to be addressed during discussions with the field. She added that the Carnegie Foundation has already acknowledged this challenge and is currently taking steps to realign their system to accommodate the implementation of proposed recommendations.

Mr. Scampini shared that many educators are expressing concerns with how the implementation of a variety of graduation pathway concentrations will affect the range of foundational courses students take in

the various subject areas. Deputy Commissioner Harmon responded that this is a key area of focus for NYSED and will require ongoing dialogue with the field as plans are finalized. The Deputy Commissioner added that he feels the creation of “broader buckets” of priority standards would allow for the integration of areas such as STEM and the Humanities to redesign courses that interconnect different subject areas.

The ESSAA leadership team will continue to monitor the work of the BRC as their work continues and provide regular informational updates to our ESSAA members.

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. New topics will be submitted to our Stakeholder Committee for consideration.