

SED Update November 2011

Testing

The 3-8 assessment calendar should be finalized soon. With regard to this year, they are still considering expanding the make-up window a little bit to overlap into the subsequent week.

SED will be releasing an updated Guide to the Grades 3-8 Testing Program as well as other information pertaining to scoring tests within the next one to two months. Information will be posted to the SED [site](#); we will also apprise you of any information as it is released.

Regional scoring of 3-8 assessments will likely be required next year with distributed scoring to follow in the future. There might be specific methodologies of regional scoring that are required – the BCIC assessment scoring committee is exploring these directions.

The testing integrity issue remains foremost in SED's mind. SED maintains that this is happening more than we think it is. Rather than investigate the past, they want to make changes in order to prevent more cheating in the future. Centralized scoring was considered but not adopted; the RICs demonstrated the ability to conduct erasure analysis and other analyses which diminished cries for a single, statewide center.

Regents week might change in 2012-2013 in order to schedule regional scoring. The high school principals will be asked to make suggestions about how to conduct regional scoring of Regents exams. SED and the Regents will soon take this issue on; we will try to get ahead of it and suggest a process for regional Regents exam scoring rather than waiting for them to develop one.

SED sent out a message stating that districts will have to copy their own reference tables and answer booklets for Regents exams. The RIC has conducted an analysis and they will be able to provide this to schools. The RIC will analyze 3-8 printing needs and get back to us with possibilities.

There will not be a change in the Algebra Regents exam until PARCC (2014-2015).

Credit Recovery

The Regents [plan on asking](#) the Office of the State Comptroller to audit the practice of awarding credit under the Making Up Incomplete or Failed Course Credit regulation. The audit would focus specifically on adherence to the procedures required under the regulations. It is a good idea to examine your practice to make sure that you in compliance with the regulations.

State Kindergarten Assessment

Because SED is participating in an effort to get the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant, another test might be its way. One of the criteria of the grant is the development of a tool which measures kindergarten readiness across multiple domains. Therefore, another assessment will have to be created: The [Tool for the Determination of Kindergarten Readiness](#). The request for this assessment came from the Governor. They are shooting for 2014-2015.

Graduation Rate

The definition at the federal level changed last year. There are [three differences](#):

- The new federal definition includes in the cohort any student who has been enrolled for one day or longer (as opposed to five months)
- Incarcerated youths will count as transfers only if the student attends a program offering courses that can result in the earning of credit toward a high school diploma. Incarcerated youth who do not attend these types of programs will count as dropouts.
- All students will be counted in a cohort based upon the year in which they first entered a ninth grade program, including ungraded students with disabilities.

The 2005 cohort (four-, five-, and six-year outcomes) has been (or will be) reported using the old cohort definition. The 2007 cohort (four-, five-, and six-year outcomes) will be reported using only the new federal cohort definition. The 2006 cohort has been (or will be) reported using both cohort definitions, depending on the reporting year and reporting purpose.

Race To The Top

SED has been posting more material to the engageNY.org site, including explanatory documents and “unit” exemplars. There is a new [get acquainted section](#) as well an [overview of the expectations](#) for the Common Core.