

SED Update January 2013

Assessment

The 3-8 [testing calendar](#) has been released. The ELA and math tests are separated by the April break. The Regents testing calendar for 2013-2014 is proving to be tricky because of the fact that there will be three new exams. SED has never done three new exams at the same time and time needs to be built in for standard-setting and analysis.

SED has re-posted the [memo](#) about student participation in State Assessments. The memo includes talking points that can be used with parents if they are questioning participation in the assessments. It states that there is no provision in statute or regulation opting out of State tests. Opting-out can have negative effects on accountability.

PARCC has released its [Technology Guidelines](#), which includes what they think will be the **minimum specifications** in order to administer the computer-based testing elements of the PARCC assessments.

Governor's Commission on Education

The first [report](#) of the Commission has been released. While the report itself does initiate any action, the Governor has said that he will make some of these recommendations a priority, dependent [of course] on funding. Some of the things mentioned in the report:

- Increase access to early educational opportunities by providing high quality full-day prekindergarten for students in highest needs school districts.
- Restructure schools by integrating social, health and other services through community schools to improve student performance.
- Begin to restructure the school day and year by extending student learning time with academically enriched programming.
- Improve the education pipeline through the smart and innovative use of technology.
- Build better bridges from high school to college and careers.
- Promote increased access to educational opportunities by encouraging school district restructuring through consolidation and regional high schools.
- Create a school performance management system that will streamline district reporting and increase transparency and accountability.
- Establish model admissions requirements for teacher and principal preparation programs to raise the bar for new educators.
- Recruit non-traditional candidates into teaching and leading by expanding alternative certification programs.
- Enhance the education training curriculum to better prepare teachers and principals to be highly effective upon entering the classroom.
- New York must raise the bar for entry into the profession.
- Strengthen educator preparation and in-service supports by establishing best practices to assure quality.

Curriculum

The *Next Generation Science Standards 2nd draft* is [available](#) for comment through January 29th.

SED is posting [resources](#) for **ESL teachers** via the NYS Bilingual Common Core Initiative. Instead of calling them Standards for English Language Learners they are calling them *Progressions*.

It looks like the **Global Studies** "split" has been [determined](#): Unit of Study 1 would address the Neolithic Revolution to the beginnings and causes of the Industrial Revolution (approximately 1765) and Unit of Study 2 would address 1750 to the present, enabling students to use the causes and beginnings of the Industrial Revolution from Unit of Study 1 to understand the Industrial Revolution itself as the foundations for imperialism and social revolutions in Europe. The next step will be to gather feedback about the revised P-8 and 9-12 Frameworks and present a revised product to the Regents for consideration in April.