

SED Update December 2013

Assessment

A review of the implementation timeline of the new Common Core-aligned Regents Examinations (the [memo](#) has been revised twice, now):

- The Common Core ELA Regents Exam (Grade 11) is required for those students first entering grade 9 in 2013-14 or later
- The Common Core Algebra I Regents Exam is required for those students first beginning commencement-level math in 2013-14 or later
- For the first year, students enrolled in Common Core classes may take the old ELA or math exam in addition to the new exam and have the higher score count. Cut-scores from A1 will not be provided prior to the IA administration.

Additional resources to help with the [ELA](#) and [Algebra 1](#) Regents transition have been posted. For the Common Core Regents Exams, SED (and the Board of Regents) is still considering multiple cut points and the recommendation, not yet cemented, is that there will be five distinction levels (instead of the four to which we are accustomed).

The Board of Regents altered regulations at the November meeting to allow for the widespread administration of the Regents Comprehensive Examination in January.

The Common Core Regents Exams will not be permanently secure – meaning they will be released after the examination. They will, of course, be “secure” until administration.

The **3-8 ELA and mathematics testing guides** have been [posted](#). Details about duration, booklets, and other minor changes are included.

The latest **PISA results** are out. This [video](#) from AFT examines the results a little more deeply and presents a [mostly] fair perspective.

Curriculum

The survey tabulation about the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) is not yet complete. However, the support for the NGSS was not particularly strong and the current climate is not hospitable to further change. While the NGSS were supported by scientists, higher education, and elementary teachers, many of the secondary science teachers argued for the preservation of the status quo.

Revisions to the Social Studies Frameworks have been made. They will be released for public comment until January 12th. An RFP for social studies modules will be issued in the spring. The Frameworks clearly delineate 9th and 10th grade Global (with the 10th grade exam only assessing the 10th grade). The Frameworks might be approved this spring, and then it will take three years or so to construct a new assessment.

The Board of Regents has been updated about new Arts Standards but no action is imminent.

The Regents Research Paper Requirement is likely to be considered at the December Regents meeting. Because of all of the drama in public education right now, whether this requirement will be approved is not certain.

The modules continue to be released. Most of the training that the state is providing for Race To The Top is about the modules. In our BOCES, slightly less than half of the districts report “adopting” or “adapting” the modules. All others are considered to be “referring” to them.