

## SED Update March 2014

### Reform Agenda Changes

The Board of Regents has made “adjustments” to the Regents Reform Agenda. This [press release](#) provides an overview. The Regents [item](#) is more detailed. Still more detail is included in [related Regents items](#). The emphasis of the changes seems to be on districts rather than the Department.

### Curriculum and Standards

- The Board of Regents has not yet [adopted](#) the Social Studies [Frameworks](#). Included in the item that will be voted on at the April meeting:
  - Vertical articulation for grades 5-8 and the incorporation of economic practices
  - Reorganization of grade 4 and incorporation of flexibility for local content, including Native American groups
  - Reduction of content in grades 5, 6 and 7 including eliminating some content from grade 6 and moving the unit on Reconstruction from grade 7 to grade 8
  - Inclusion of additional topics in Global History and Geography
  - Inclusion of more constitutional principles and references to cases in United States History and Government, to strengthen the civics/citizenship elements of the course
  - Inclusion of a deeper exploration of our political system and specific examples of civic actions in Participation in Government
  - Reorganization of Economics, with more economic theory clearly articulated, while maintaining the personal finance unit.
  - Global History and Geography I (Grade 9) begins with the Paleolithic Era and continues to a period of Global Interactions from approximately 1400 to 1750.
  - Global History and Geography II (Grade 10) begins with a snapshot of the world at 1750, incorporates the Enlightenment and Industrial Revolution, and continues to the present. A new Regents examination will come at the conclusion of the second year. The *earliest* version of the new test will be June 2018.
  - The Department will provide a Field Guide that incorporates these panel recommendations and other implementation strategies. The Field Guide will begin with an overview of the purpose of the social studies framework and will introduce the shifts in social studies instruction.
- The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) [feedback was considered](#) by the Board of Regents. No action was taken. It seems like we will eventually have new science standards but whether or not they are the NGSS remains undetermined. While most groups like NGSS, secondary science teachers do not want to change.

### Accountability

SED is looking to go online for BEDS data for 2014-2015. This project is still in the development phase.

School Report Cards are changing. There is a new site where the public can access the data: [data.nysed.gov](http://data.nysed.gov). This has been up for four weeks. They are using a soft launch because there are no new data there. School report cards will change:

- When 2012-2013 report cards are released (in April), they will not be in pdf form. They will be in dynamic form which will allow districts to filter and search. More end-user functionality. This is where the evaluation data will eventually be housed.

- The goal is to not have a major school report card release, but to have the data released as it becomes available.

### **Assessment**

On the Common Core Regents exams:

- There will be conversion charts – meaning that it is often inaccurate to talk as if the scores on a 100pt scale are percentages. They are not.
- Percentiles will be given for the new tests so that students know how they performed relative to the rest of the state.
- Refer to the [SAM](#) for information about responses to opting out:
  - All students are expected to participate in State tests as part of the core academic program. Absences from all or part of the required academic program should be managed in accordance with the attendance policies of the district. For accountability and other statewide reporting purposes, students who do not participate in an assessment are reported to the State as “not tested.” Schools do not have any obligation to provide an alternative location or activities for individual students while the tests are being administered.
- Students are looking to grown-ups for messages, just like when your kids skin their knees and they look at you to see if you’re freaking out or if you’re smiling. SED is asking leaders to model the professional approach to assessments.

### **Odds and Ends**

The regulations about school counseling and school counselors have not been significantly revisited since the 1960s. The SED Student Support Services team will be taking a look at school counseling both from the certification and regulations angles.

The Safe Schools Task Force was re-convened in 2013. A report (with recommendations) is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Regents at their June meeting. Included:

- School Culture and Student Engagement
- School Safety Reporting and Data Use
- Building Security and Infrastructure