

SED Update May 2015

Assessment

As of now, there continues to be no plans to offer the A2/Trig assessment next year as a safety net for students who are also taking Common Core Algebra 2. The reason is that the standards are so different that an overlap of the exams is not as automatic as for the other math tests. This could change, but for now, the option to take the old A2/Trig and Common Core Regents Examinations in Algebra 2 is not planned.

APPR

The Board of Regents and the Department are trying to translate the APPR legislation into regulations. We cannot expect those regulations (and guidance, eventually) until late June. As it stands now, the deadline for districts to submit a new APPR plan is September 1, 2015, with Department approval by November 15, 2015.

On May 7th, SED conducted a “Field Engagement” session. Professional unions were invited to send representatives to provide comments. A panel presented different perspectives. Panelists included Tom Kane who directed the MET Study, Jesse Rothstein from the University of California at Berkeley, Catherine Brown of the Center for American Progress, Sandi Jacobs from the National Council of Teacher Quality, and Leslie Guggenheim of The New Teacher Project.

Accountability

Approval from USDOE on NY’s NCLB waiver request has not yet been received, although it’s expected. NY did not seek a waiver of the participation rate in its application. Other states have asked to have the 95% waived and thus far those requests have not been granted. No state has yet received any consequences of failure to meet the 95% participation rate, however.

School Climate and Culture

It appears that plans are moving ahead to pilot a [School Climate Index](#). The idea is to assess and analyze school climate through school-to-school comparisons and to identify schools most in need at programmatic interventions aimed at improving school climate. The climate index could be comprised of the three following measurements: survey of student, staff, and community; VADIR and DASA reporting of violent incidents; and absenteeism data. It is likely that this will be piloted next year. A final recommendation will come at an upcoming Regents meeting.