**SED Update**

**December 2019**

**Updated 12/3/19**

**New York State Teacher of the Year**

The New York State Teacher of the Year Program is now Accepting Applications for 2021 Teacher of the Year

Join us in recognizing and celebrating our outstanding teachers.

* The Teacher of the Year is an exemplary educator who will serve as ambassador for New York State teachers and will be the state’s nominee for National Teacher of the Year.
* Additional information including how to nominate a teacher and/or submit an application may be found at  [New York State Teacher of the Year](http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/new-york-state-teacher-year) at http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/new-york-state-teacher-year.
* Application deadline is February 1, 2020.
* Questions may be directed to the Office of Curriculum & Instruction at 518-474-5922, or toty@nysed.gov.

**Regional Graduation Measures Meetings**

Regional workgroup meetings to gather stakeholder and public feedback will be held starting in January and will run through March.

* At least one meeting will be held in each judicial district and will be led by the local Board of Regents Member, the BOCES District Superintendent and Big Five district staff as well as State Education Department staff.
* For anyone unable to attend a regional meeting but wishing to contribute feedback, a public comment email box has been established. Comments may be submitted to GradMeasures@nysed.gov.
* The meetings will include the opportunity for attendees to break out into small groups to discuss each of five guiding questions and provide feedback to the Department. Achieve will synthesize and compile the feedback from each regional meeting, as well as feedback received in writing, and provide a written report to the Board of Regents that will be presented in Spring 2020.
* To allow for a transparent and meaningful information gathering process, the Department has created a [Graduation Measures](http://www.nysed.gov/grad-measures) [website](http://www.nysed.gov/grad-measures) which will feature updates throughout the process and has established a listserv that is open to anyone wishing to receive updates. For those interested in signing up for the listserv, please visit the NYSED [website](http://www.nysed.gov/grad-measures) at <http://www.nysed.gov/grad-measures> for additional information.
* The Department will also provide updates via traditional social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn with #NYSGradMeasures.

**Free Online Resource Now Available for Educators to Recognize, Respond to, and Reduce Cyberbullying**

A new free online resource is available on the Department’s website to assist school counseling and other staff in recognizing the signs of cyberbullying and how to respond and reduce it.

* The resource is available at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/cyberbully/>
* Additional resources regarding preventing bullying and cyberbullying, and the Dignity for All Students Act is available on the New York State Center for School Safety’s web page at <https://www.nyscfss.org/>
* Questions about the resources may be directed to SSEC@nysed.gov.

**Equitable Course Access Guidance**

The Board of Regents and the State Education Department (“SED”) are committed to ensuring that all students succeed and thrive in school no matter who they are, where they are from, where they live, or where they go to school.

* This emphasis on equity includes a focus on increasing students’ access to rigorous learning opportunities so that all students are prepared for success after high school.
* One way SED is pursuing this goal is through the implementation of New York State’s Every Student Succeeds Act (“ESSA”) plan. Our ESSA plan uses multiple measures of success to advance equity, including a new “College, Career, and Civic Readiness Index” that will measure, among other indicators, advanced course enrollment and credits.
* To assist school districts in this area, SED is issuing this guidance to share recommended best practices for providing equitable opportunities for access to rigorous coursework for all students, including those students who are historically underserved at <http://www.nysed.gov/memo/essa/equitable-course-access-guidance>
* An equitable course enrollment policy builds on rigorous learning opportunities for all students in elementary and middle grades.
	+ Positive practices include:
	+ ensuring high expectations for all students;
	+ scaffolding curriculum in the early grades so that all students are prepared for advanced coursework in high school; and
	+ providing educators with the necessary professional development across grade spans.

**Proposed Regulations of the Commissioner of Education to Implement Provisions Relating to Physical Education Requirements for a Diploma and Transfer Credits for Students Earning Credit in an Educational Program while Detained, Placed or Incarcerated**

Currently, the diploma requirements require that a student complete two units of credit in Physical Education (PE) and that students participate in PE every semester they are enrolled in school, even if they have met the required two credits and remain in school beyond their senior year.

* The New York State Education Department proposes a revision to §100.5(d)(5) of Commissioner’s Regulations to provide these students with the same exemption currently provided to students transferring from another state and students of military families, who transfer into a registered New York state high school from another state, to allow such students to be exempt from the required two units of credit requirement in physical education to meet the diploma requirements. Instead, such students shall be required to enroll in physical education courses every semester they are in a registered New York State high school and shall earn ¼ unit of credit for each semester of physical education completed in a registered New York State high school to meet the diploma requirements.
* The Department further proposes an amendment to allow students who have earned the required number of credits in physical education to meet the diploma requirements, but may need more than 8 semesters to graduate due to other course or assessment deficiencies, to be permitted to stop enrolling in physical education courses.
* It is anticipated that the proposed rule will be presented to the Board of Regents for permanent adoption at the February 2020 Regents meeting, after publication of the proposed amendment in the State Register and expiration of the 60-day public comment period required under the State Administrative Procedure Act. If adopted at the February 2020 meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on February 26, 2020.

**OSE Listserv**

You can receive notification by electronic mail of the latest memoranda and other technical assistance documents available on the Special Education website at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/register.htm>

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