

SED Update March 2012

Dignity Act

As information about Dignity Act requirements continues to [slowly] emerge, these continue to be the big pieces:

- Revised VADIR reporting procedures
- Training and education requirements
- The identification of a point person for each school (Coordinator)
- Revisions to Codes of Conduct

OCM BOCES has created a service which will help you implement the requirements of this legislation/regulation to assist schools in establishing and maintaining discrimination-free climate. The service will be provided by the Youth Development Department but will be nestled within School Improvement. The service will include:

- Annual training for Dignity Act Coordinators (one per school) and Title IX Compliance Officers
- Monthly newsletter
- Approximately four webinars per year
- Topical seminars and workshop invitations
- Annual faculty meeting presentation for school building
- Technical assistance for participating buildings
- Access to and support for school climate surveys
- Dignity Act instructional materials and resources

The annual cost, per building, is \$730 for component districts (\$830 for non-components). Although the service won't actually begin until next school year, we have scheduled the first, introductory session a little early in order to get a jump on the requirements: May 21st. Mary Grenz Jalloh from the New York Center for School Safety will conduct a day-long workshop for potential Dignity Act Coordinators, Title IX Compliance Officers, and administrators from participating districts.

APPR and Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

Until there is a State budget, state communication about APPR (including SLOs) is somewhat on hold. Districts, based on the announced agreement, should continue to develop APPR agreements and not hold any longer. Remember that this agreement addresses some of the legislation but most of it remains intact. While we have to wait for the details and revised guidance, here is a quick [presentation](#) about what we think is different.

The new list of approved assessments for SLOs will be posted soon by SED. It looks like nothing will be removed from this list and instruments will be added.

Assessment

Teachers' directions for 3-8 ELA and math are due out by March 9th. A set of slides for training teachers to score ELA extended response items is due out March 23rd. The 3-8 School Administrators Manual is due to be released March 30th. The 3-8 Scoring Site Operations Manual is scheduled to be released March 30th.

The [calendars](#) that we have been waiting for are all out, and hopefully they won't change them!

In the latest timeline, Regents ELA, A1, Geometry, and NYSAA (ELA and math) will be CCLS-aligned in 2013-2014. PARCC; A2; 4,6,7,8 science; Earth Science; Living Environment; Chemistry; Physics 6-8 social studies; global (perhaps split into two); US History; and NYSAA (science and social studies) are scheduled for 2014-2015.

Standards

The *Next Generation Science Standards* are due out in draft form this spring and are scheduled to be finalized by next winter. The Board of Regents would have to adopt them, but that is likely since New York is a governing state.

Pending Regents approval, *Common Core-aligned Social Studies Standards* should be released this spring. This is sooner than we thought.

CR 100.5 Accountability

This [report](#) expresses the results of the NYC audit of credit acquisition, laboratory requirements, diploma awarding, and credit recovery. It might signal the kinds of audits high schools can expect of their practices.

ESEA Waiver

New York submitted their application on February 28th. An examination of the NCLB waiver application [key provisions](#) includes identification of reward schools and recognition schools in addition to local assistance plan schools; focus districts and subsequently identified schools; and priority schools. The lists will be identified once during the life of the waiver – no one will be added to the lists during the waiver duration (but you can come off of a list). The reward list and local assistance plan designation, however, is annual. It has not yet been determined whether the list of schools on a local assistance plan will be released as a list.

Note: if approved by USDOE, this means that it is very likely that our recently identified SINI schools will no longer be on a “list.” After USDOE waiver approval, further USDOE accountability work book changes have to be made, and then the Regents will have to adopt regulations to conform. Formally, this won’t occur until July at the earliest. In the meantime, SED will “predict” district statuses and communicate with superintendents soon.

Mandate Review

The Governor’s Mandate Review Commission is conducting hearings in some locations across the state. Particular mandates are being recommended to the Governor: Triborough reform, 3020(a) reform, seat-time requirements, and special education reform. On-line learning also offers opportunities for efficiency and 21st Century alignment. High School reform is necessary because the comprehensive high school model in the 21st Century is impossible the way it is currently funded (and given enrollment trends in the state); regional high schools have to be made possible (and perhaps incentivized).

The phrase “educational insolvency” is being used to describe conditions when schools and districts cannot maintain a sound educational program due to inadequate financial support.