

SED Update October 2011

Schools In Need of Improvement

The number of schools within OCM BOCES that are now labeled as a "School In Need of Improvement" has increased dramatically. There are now eight districts with one or more schools in this situation. With little exception, this is due to the SWD subgroup on the ELA 3-8 assessment. Next year, we will see similar numbers of schools identified on the basis of their math 3-8 scores unless a NCLB waiver process is proposed and accepted. SINI schools that receive Title 1 funding are required to do a School Quality Review and Quality Indicator Process and are required to provide Supplemental Educational Services. ISS has prepared a School Accountability [page](#) with resources.

Testing Calendars

A draft of a calendar for 3-8 testing in 2012-2013 has been prepared and is being considered by SED. It proposes ELA administration (including makeups) during the third week in April and math administration (including makeups) during the 4th week of April. Easter Sunday is March 31st that year; Passover is March 26th - April 2nd.

For the same reason that they adjusted the 3-8 schedule (returning teacher evaluation scores), SED is considering moving Regents week forward by one week. There is no definitive word about when this change might occur.

Scoring

SED has been very actively campaigning against cheating on state assessments. Additionally, they are trying to make the assessment system work to provide data that can be used for teacher and principal evaluation. As a result, consider these [potential changes](#) to scoring procedures:

- Beginning in the 2012-13 school year, it is recommended that all teachers be prohibited from scoring their own student's exams. This universal prohibition will likely necessitate a change in the testing calendar for next year's Regents exams.
- After further research, the Department found that most states we contacted do allow teachers to proctor their own students' tests. This, combined with the possible impact on younger students, leads us to recommend no change to current proctoring policies.
- Request Independent Reviewer make recommendations on appropriate retention time of answer sheets and assessment booklets.

BCIC's scoring committee will be examining all changes in scoring practices and procedures in order to provide the region with the best support and advice.

APPR for Teachers and Principals (Teacher and Leader Effectiveness)

A few more rubrics have been approved and are now included on the [SED list](#). Most notably, Kim Marshall's rubrics for both teachers and principals are now included.

Dignity for All Students Act

A statewide task force is preparing the regulations that will dictate the implementation of this law. While there are some "leaks" from the committee, little is actually known about provisions of these regulations. It is likely that there will be training, reporting, and other requirements. It is also expected that these expectations will be integrated with SAVE regulations and requirements in some way. The law goes into effect on July 1, 2012.

Race To The Top (RT3) and Network Team Information

Overviews of the RTTT initiatives and expectations are being delivered in several ways: keynote messages at conference days and faculty meetings, workshop days in both Syracuse and Cortland, and onsite workshops of varying formats. There are several ways to stay current about delivery options:

- Follow the “[map](#)” of the year and the four focus areas of standards, data, professional practice, and culture.
- Monitor the [schedule](#) online
- Continue to attend Lead Evaluator Training

Credit Recovery

The Regents [plans on asking](#) the Office of the State Comptroller to audit the practice of awarding credit under the Making Up Incomplete or Failed Course Credit regulation. The audit would focus specifically on adherence to the procedures required under the regulations.

State Kindergarten Assessment

Because SED is participating in an effort to get the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant, another test might be its way. One of the criteria of the grant is the development of a tool which measures the kindergarten readiness across multiple domains. Therefore, another assessment will have to be created: The [Tool for the Determination of Kindergarten Readiness](#). The request for this assessment came from the Governor. They are shooting for 2014-2015.