

SED Update October 2014

Assessment

The waiver to avoid double testing in 8th grade math for students also taking Regents examination is not approved for 2014-2015 at this time. Therefore, principals have been advised to order 8th grade math examinations for all of their students. SED has requested another waiver but it has not been approved yet. If it is approved there will be an opportunity to revise test orders.

At this point, there is no approved option for students to take both the old Comprehensive ELA Regents Examination and the new Common-Core aligned Regents ELA 11 test and have the higher of the two scores be counted. It is expected that the Regents will consider an extension of this option at their October meeting. In our region, it was the experience of districts in which students took both exams that passing rates were similar (the impact on mastery levels was not conclusive).

Based on an examination of Algebra 1 and Integrated Algebra scores from students who took both last year, it looks like there was no impact on passing rate. This indicates that the 5-point Regents scale worked in this way with the new, Common Core-aligned Regents examination. It was observed, however, that far fewer students scored at a master level or >90 level with the new exam which identifies an impact on student who might be seeking to be graduated with a higher Regents diploma. Districts are now deciding what to do about Geometry in this regard.

It is not yet clear where New York is going with PARCC, although another decision point for SED and the Board of Regents is impending. Recent remarks from leadership about PARCC are that the organization has been responsive to concerns about cost, time, and technology. It is expected that the Board of Regents will make a decision at their December meeting.

SED is about to issue an RFP for a new NYSAA exam. They are considering working with other states.

APPR

Most districts were able to meet the September 1st deadline (with lots of scrambling). The Governor has not yet signed the law requiring re-calculation for certain developing and ineffective summative scores that are derived from Common Core-aligned assessments.

Parent notification [processes](#) for the provision of teacher and principal APPR scores were developed regionally. There was not much interest last year. A story about the process in the local press might influence this.

The public release of growth scores indicated that most teachers (approximately 95%) are effective or highly effective. These results are not too different from the national evaluation portrait painted by [The Widget Effect](#) in 2009. Anecdotal data collected from districts and schools, however, indicated that teachers and leaders are discussing and paying more attention to the teaching and learning process more than ever.

Academic Intervention Services

The Board of Regents approved the [revision of the AIS rules](#). Basically, this was a continuation for the flexibility that was provided last year.

Curriculum

Information about the Social Studies Framework and subsequent [changes to social studies](#) in New York is emerging:

- K-12 Framework approved in April 2014
- Field Guide due out soon
- Toolkit is scheduled for a spring release
- “Inquiries” will be published
- June 2018 first administration of new Global Regents exam
- June 2019 first administration of new US History Regents exam

This is the year of Common Core Geometry implementation. SED has a sample [curriculum map](#), course [overview](#), and has posted [modules](#) to engage^{ny}. During the transition, it’s more important than ever to connect and collaborate with colleagues across districts to dig in to the standards, explore curriculum revisions, and understand assessment changes. There’s a network in the [northern](#) part (October 17) of the BOCES and the [southern](#) part (October 24th).

There are indications that a recommendation about science is under consideration. The question is whether to go with the Next Generation Science Standards or to do some sort of NY version.

High School Completion and Graduation

It is expected that the Board of Regents will take some sort of action on graduation pathways at their October meeting. At their September meeting, the Board of Regents viewed a [presentation](#) about some of the options. The idea behind the pathways discussion is that there might be some ways to introduce student-centered flexibility to graduation requirements while maintaining high standards. All Students earning a Regents Diploma will:

- Take a Balanced Curriculum including: American History, Global Studies, Science, Language other than English, Art, Physical Education and Health
- Earn a minimum of 22 High School Credits,
- And meet required elements of their pathway

There might be ways to substitute some examinations and alternative ways to earn particular credits. Some alternate pathways are already approved, such as certain AP and IB examinations.

Part 154 Changes

The “[Blueprint](#)” is the outline for impending changes, both in terms of philosophy and details.

All teachers are considered as teachers of ELLs (this is a fundamental shift).

[Part 154 regulation changes](#) will go into effect October 1st but really are about full implementation in September 2015. The RBERNS and Office of Bilingual Education are working on a guide to these changes that will be out later in the year.