

SED Update February 2015

Assessment

Phase 2 NYSESLAT development continues (for [implementation](#) this year). The scoring of last year's field test is almost complete. 829 schools participated in the process. They hope that they can shorten up the test. Instructions are also being improved, especially for the writing section. There are five shifts in the exam:

1. It will measure the Common Core and the ELL Progressions.
2. Five performance levels will be employed (instead of the previous four). Scoring at the proficient level will be expected in order to exit from ELL services.
3. Different modalities will be integrated.
4. At grade-level text passages and grade-level content (but not a content test) will be utilized
5. Prompts will be instructionally-rooted rather than socially-rooted. Passages will be academically focused.

The administration of the test is similar to the previous version. RBERNs will provide the scoring training. They are working on materials that will be placed on engageNY that will help teachers understand any format changes as well as the five shifts (listed above). Sample items will be posted (and annotated), too.

Districts will no longer be "charged-back" for Regents exam orders that are considered to be excessive. They'll keep an eye on this in case the situation gets out of hand, again.

Standards

The strategic plan for science has been endorsed by the Board of Regents. Although just a target timeline, here's what was included in the [Regents item](#):

Winter 2015: Determine core science content, conceptual understandings, and practices required of all students, benchmark student expectations, and determine architecture of standards document.

Spring 2015: Write draft standards.

Summer 2015: Post draft standards for stakeholder review and comment.

Fall 2015: Revise standards, based on review and comment.

Winter 2016: Propose science learning standards for Board of Regents' adoption.

Curriculum

A company is working on translations of the math modules (six different languages). They should be done by the end of the year.

High School Completion and Graduation

The Board of Regents completed the adoption process for the [4+1 Pathways](#) (as expected). The [item](#) contains the precise language. There were no changes from the original item.

District Guidance Plans

SED has issued a reminder that District Guidance Plans are a requirement and requested all districts to have their plan posted on their website by June 30, 2015 (revised date). The requirement for a plan is stated in Commissioner's Regulations Part 100.2(j):

Each school district shall develop a district plan which sets forth the manner in which the district shall comply with the requirements of this subdivision. Such plan shall be filed in the district offices and shall be available for review by any individual. The plan shall present program objectives, which describe expectations of what students will learn from the program; activities to accomplish the objectives; specification of staff members and other resources assigned to accomplish the objectives; and provisions for the annual assessment of program results. The plan shall be reviewed annually by the school districts, and revisions shall be made as necessary.

Additional information about plan requirements and expectations will be available in March. When districts do revise or construct a plan, it is recommended that the process and timeline for subsequent revisions be included as a component of that plan.