

SED Update December 2015

Assessment

Students who started 9th grade prior to 2013 will be allowed to take the old Comprehensive Examination in English in addition to the Common Core ELA Regents. Passing either examination will count for these students, only. Students who started high school in 2013 can take only the Common Core exam.

The 2016-2017 assessment calendar is under development by SED. It will be some time before it is released, however, due to the complexity of including on-line opportunities.

Standards

A “Standards Survey” was distributed by SED. They wanted to collect feedback from the field about the standards and their implementation. Subsequently, a standards review team will take a look at the feedback. We can expect minor modifications as well as a rebranding and repacking of the standards. The most ambitious schedule has a draft going to the Board of Regents by the end of the year. Fall is more realistic. Summary slides are [available](#).

Feedback is now being accepted on the [draft](#) of the New York State Science Standards. You will see that the middle-level is organized in bands rather than grade levels; it will be important to provide feedback about this organization. The OCM BOCES Center for Innovative Science Education has prepared a [special web page](#) that explains the differences between the NGSS and the NYSSLS so that a thorough analysis can be conducted.

APPR

On December 10th the Governor’s Common Core Commission issued 21 recommendations about the Common Core and related issues. The 21st recommendation targeted the use of Common Core-based assessments for teacher evaluation and suggested a four-year moratorium on the use of Common-Core assessments, Common Core-derived growth scores, and other applications of Common Core-based assessments. Just a few days later, the State Education Department suggested several emergency regulatory changes to the Board of Regents in order to implement the Commission’s 21st recommendation. These regulatory changes label the interregnum between now and the 2019-2020 school year as a “transition period.”

During the transition period, transition scores and HEDI ratings will replace the scores and HEDI ratings for teachers and principals whose HEDI scores are based, in whole or in part, on State assessments in grades 3-8 ELA or mathematics (including where State-provided growth scores are used) or on State-provided growth scores on Regents examinations. Back-up SLO[s] shall be developed by the district/BOCES consistent with guidelines prescribed by the Commissioner using assessments approved by the Department that are not State assessments. During the next month or so guidance is expected to explain the mid-year changes that districts will have to make.