

SED Update February 2016

Assessment

SED is making several [changes](#) to the 3-8 assessment format. In addition to previously announced changes such as fewer items, we have been told that the 3-8 ELA and math tests will be untimed. Schools will have to work out assessment schedules that juggle refusal numbers and locations, test locations, modifications, and the disappearance of time limits. The SAM should be published in March.

The on-line practice test for 3-8 ELA and math [is now available](#). The samplers are comprised of previously released items. It will be good for students to try it out, particularly those in schools that are doing the math field test this year.

Most of the 2016-2017 assessment [calendar](#) has been released. Notice that the computer-based dates are not exactly the same as the paper-based dates for ELA and math. We do not yet know the Regents dates, however (these are expected soon).

Exploration of project-based assessment is just beginning. At this point, it looks like ESSA might allow it only for students who first fail the standard test, but that is unclear. As is often the case, a lack of funding will impede this.

Additional assessments will soon be added to the 4+1 list, including assessments in the arts and CTE.

There are many [changes](#) to the ELA and math NYSAA.

Standards

Now that the Aim High Standards Survey is over, a review group will be formed to recommend changes to the Board of Regents. We won't see a draft of any changes until next year.

Feedback is still being accepted on the [draft](#) of the New York State Science Standards (UNTIL February 5th). 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. It will also be important to comment on the content additions to the NGSS that have been included. 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.

A survey about the [Arts Standards](#) is just about ready to go.

Accountability

The school accountability process will have to change now that ESSA has been approved. This will take some time. SED has signaled that they will be engaging the field as changes are considered. In the meantime, districts and schools will continue under the old NCLB-waiver system.

Continued on reverse

APPR

There are several ways to learn about the “transition” period:

- [FAQs](#) from SED
- Explanatory [slides](#)
- [Narrative](#) explanation

During the transition period, LEAs must calculate both original and transition scores and ratings. The results of grades 3-8 ELA/math State assessments and any State-provided growth scores must be excluded from the transition score/rating calculations. State-provided growth scores and the original scores and ratings must still be provided for advisory purposes. Hardship Waivers will be automatically renewed for all districts that are currently implementing a §3012-c APPR plan pursuant to a Hardship Waiver that was approved by the November 15, 2015 deadline. Districts must still have a §3012-d APPR plan approved by the Department by September 1, 2016 to maintain eligibility for State aid increase. Districts should submit their §3012-d APPR plans by July 1, 2016 to ensure approval by September 1, 2016. Districts that already have an approved §3012-d APPR plan will have to submit a supplemental form describing the alternate SLOs that will be used during the transition period. For all employment related decisions and TIP/PIP determinations, use the overall composite transition rating.