

SED Update March 2016

National News and Implications

Preliminary information about the Elementary and Secondary Education Act's new version/reauthorization, the **Every Student Succeeds Act** ([item](#) and [slides](#)), was reviewed by the Board of Regents. Some highlights:

- States must have challenging standards in math, science, and ELA
- Annual 3-8 assessments continue to be required, as well as periodic science measures. Penalties for low participation rate are not specified.
- A new accountability system will have to be developed. Until then, the previous NCLB waiver will be followed. Although not required to do so, New York seceded to go ahead and identify new priority, focus, and LAP schools. The 5% lowest performing schools will have to be identified and they will have to develop comprehensive plans.
- Student growth may, but is not required to be, part of the state's teacher and principal evaluation system.

Assessment

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.

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

The School Administrators Manual should be posted soon.

Standards

The Board of Regents reviewed a [plan](#) to revise the math and ELA standards. Few substantive changes were identified; most changes will be limited in scope. The plan is that changes would be considered by the Board of Regents in the fall of 2016 with changes showing up in the 2018-2019 assessments.

Results of the draft science standards survey are being reviewed at the beginning of the month. According to the [Strategic Plan](#), the next step would be to develop a recommendation to the Board of Regents regarding the adoption of a revised set of the current NYS science learning standards, the adoption of a new set of P-12 NYS Science Learning Standards incorporating the tenets of the Framework for K-12 Science Education, the adoption of a new set of P-12 NYS Science Learning Standards influenced by the NGSS, or the adoption of the NGSS.

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

Accountability

Although the school accountability process will have to change now that ESSA has been approved, new focus districts have been identified across the state and in the BOCES. Later in the spring new lists of LAP schools will be released.

APPR

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

- [FAQs](#) from SED
 - Explanatory [slides](#)
 - [Narrative](#) explanation
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Academic Intervention Services (AIS)

Technically, the AIS requirement for scores of Level I or II on a state assessment are in place, although the state has allowed for RTI to replace AIS requirements and has flexed the cut-points as the assessments have changed. Based requests from the field that AIS be based on multiple measures, SED and the Board of Regents are considering [changes](#) to AIS expectations. They have targeted 2016-2017 for revised guidance that would include language about multiple measures.

Special Education

SED is planning on making some [recommendations](#) to the Board of Regents in the fall that will address inclusion and Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). A self-review tool that districts and school can use to assess their inclusion practices is under development. Previously, districts were advised to review their inclusion data and LRE practices and to ensure that students have access to the full continuum of services.