

## SED Update May 2016

### Assessment

The Regents Examination **Appeals Process** has been [modified](#); these modifications are available to students immediately. The appeals range has been expanded to 60.

The [transition](#) to computer-based testing is continuing. The eventual goal is that all 3-8 math and ELA testing will be computer-based in 2019-2020. In the fall, districts will indicate which, if any, computer-based 3-8 testing they want to implement in 2016-2017. Readiness assessments are being conducted for the computer-based stand-alone field tests this year; it will be important to ensure “readiness” next year if choosing to do any computer-based assessment. The Board of Regents received an [update](#) in April.

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### Accountability

A recent [memo](#) from SED provided information about the State’s accountability system:

- Double-testing in math is not required.
- A1 data will not be included in the growth model for 8th grade students, and in 2015-16 students who take only the Regents Exam and do not take their grade level math assessment will remain excluded from the State-provided growth model.
- Districts must submit results from AP exams, IB exams, SAT subject tests, and Blue Ribbon Panel endorsed CTE exams beginning in the 2015-16 school year.
- SED is exploring the adoption of State-provided growth results based on *three years* of data.

SED is starting to collect [attendance data](#) although it is not required to be submitted. Attendance data will not be immediately included in school report cards, either. Eventually it will be required and reported.

The timeline for the collection of school summary counts of [VADIR](#) and DASA incidents for the 2015-16 school year (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016) has been moved up. The 2015-16 school year VADIR/DASA application will be available on the NYSED Application Business Portal beginning on June 27, 2016 with a reporting deadline of July 25, 2016.

This [report](#) summarizes the minor changes being made to AIS requirements. Nothing too dramatic is being recommended at this time; cut-points will continue to be issued for each year. Multiple measures should be employed. The process for setting these might change but they will still be set and issued. Consideration of RTI and of AIS in disciplines other than ELA and math will happen in the future.

## APPR

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

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

Beginning in the spring of 2017, NYSED will create committees comprised of stakeholders, practitioners, and experts in the field to provide recommendations on assessments and evaluations that could be used for evaluations in the future. Committees organized by topic area will review all important components currently and potentially in teacher/principal evaluations including the current landscape of options being employed nationally as well as review the existing structure of the NYS evaluation system. A proposal for an evaluation system will be brought to the Board in the spring of 2018 for 2019-2020 implementation.

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## Building Operations & Emergency Preparedness

Changes about emergency preparedness in schools were included in the state budget. Districts will be required to conduct a total of 12 fire and emergency drills during the school year. Eight drills must take place between September 1st and December 31st, a change from the former date of December 1st. Four of the required drills must be lockdown drills. The drills should take place at different times during the school day. The required number of lockdown drills is included within the twelve drills, effectively reducing the number of fire drills to eight. [Read the summary](#).

Additionally, safety plans will include procedures for responding to students making threats against themselves (including suicide). Schools will be required to certify to the Commissioner that all staff have undergone annual training on the emergency response plan (including components on violence prevention and mental health).