

SED Update March 2010

Common Core Standards

Input is being encouraged on drafts of the Common Core Standards for math and ELA until April 2nd. The plan is that these standards will become at least 85% of our new state standards.

State Budget Issues & Impact on Assessments

- Assessment budget is short 7 million dollars
- Unless the legislature gives more money, need to cut assessments out of the 2010-2011 budget
- Considerations for cutting the assessments include:
 - Review test development process & consider limiting staff involved;
 - Discontinue providing the paper-based scoring materials to districts;
 - Eliminating Component Retesting;
 - Discontinue translating exams in multiple languages;
 - Eliminate Grade 8 Second Language Proficiency Exams;
 - Eliminate January and August Test Administrations;
 - Eliminate various Regents exams including Foreign Language; Social Studies exams, Science, exams or Math exams
- Discussion at the DS Meeting regarding the potential cuts occurred. District Superintendents prefaced their comments by stating that the long-term vision for NYS Education should drive the decisions about how to close the gap in the assessment budget. There was not consensus but the majority of feedback given to Deputy King included:
 - Discontinuing paper-based scoring materials;
 - Discontinuing the Second Language Proficiency exams;
 - Discontinuing the Foreign Language Regents exams;
 - Restructuring the Social Studies High School exam so there would be one exam that might encompass U.S. and Global History (World History);
 - Discontinuing the Social Studies 5th and 8th grade assessments

Annual Professional Performance Review

- Three changes in the regulations include:
 - Include student growth as a criteria in the evaluation of teachers
 - Implementation of uniform rating categories: Highly Effective, Effective, Developing and Ineffective
 - Provision of timely and constructive feedback to teachers
- April 1st meeting with various stakeholders regarding the APPR changes (NYSCOSS, SANYSS, NYSUT)
- Changes in Regulations are necessary in order to conform with what SED told the Federal Government NYS would do in Race to the Top
- The Board of Regents are planning on adopting the changes to regulations as an emergency measure at the April Regents meeting

Changes in the ELA Regents Exam

- Expect by January 2011 a one day exam instead of a two day exam

Co-Sers

- Review of process used to approve Co-Sers offering innovative programs that would benefit two or more components in a BOCES
- Currently under review, expecting an approval in April
 - Shared Personnel Director
 - Shared Athletic Director
 - Regional High Schools
 - Claims Auditing
 - Building and Grounds
 - Grant Writer Flexibility
 - Broaden Fingerprinting Range of Services

GED

- From 2002-2007-08, GED budget was \$3.9 million
- In 2010-11, if Governor's budget is enacted, GED budget will be \$2.4 million dollar budget
- At the March Board of Regents meeting, the Board voted not to renew the \$20 reimbursement contracts with the testing centers after June 30th. It is expected that testing centers may reduce the number of testing dates or limit the seats for prospective test-takers. At OCM BOCES, we are in the process of determining how we will proceed given the large number of students who take the GED exam at our testing center.

- Board of Regents are looking at strategies to change the GED testing process and reduce costs, including:
 - Developing a state approved online preparation curriculum
 - Developing online preparation programs for GED instructors
 - Requiring all individuals who want to take the test to pass the Official Practice Test before registering for the GED test
 - Develop a new exam that will be aligned to the national common core standards and online system for test administration – projected to be available in 2014-2015.

Independent Study Course Credit

- At the April Board of Regents meeting, the Board is scheduled to act upon Regulations that will support make-up/independent credit options for students.
 - The Regulations will limit independent studies to 3 elective credits and a certified teacher must oversee the student's work

Field Testing for ELA and Math 2010

- The ELA and Math Field tests must be administered between May 12-14th only
- The field tests must be administered in all schools to all students who participate in the 3-8 ELA and Math tests to ensure a full census field test.
- Refer to the memo from SED dated March 16th for specifics regarding English Language Learners.