

Summary of September 2018 meeting of the Board of Regents

The September 2018 meeting of the Board of Regents began with a presentation by the NYS Board of Regents Early Childhood Workgroup's Blue Ribbon Committee. Members of the group presented a summary of their final recommendations to improve early childhood education across the state along with a timeline for implementation.

Some of the key areas of focus include:

1. Securing additional funding to support expansion of PreK programs across the state
2. Supporting the inclusion of more students with disabilities
3. Implementing a comprehensive developmental screening process
4. Requiring full day kindergarten in all school districts
5. Revising PreK school leader certification requirements
6. Improving support for emergent multilingual learners

The committee will now begin working with key State agencies, education advocates, and members of the legislature to begin implementation of the recommendations.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/Full%20Board%20Monday%20-%20Early%20Childhood%20Report%20Presentation.pdf>

Commissioner Elia presented several proposed amendments to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which were unanimously approved by the Board.

Most notable are revisions relating to the 95% Student Participation Rate requirement in state assessments that include:

1. Changes in the criteria which would require that improvement plans be written or updated.
2. Not requiring schools to set aside Title 1 money to improve participation rates
3. Removing the provision for placing schools under preliminary registration review when excessive percentages of students fail to participate.

Additional minor revisions to other areas of the ESSA plan were also included in the amendment and are described in the link below.

https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/P-12%20-%20ESSA%20Presentation_0.pdf

The Board discussed proposed amendments associated with the new **Pilot Partnerships for Principal Preparation Program**. Funded with grant money through the Principal Preparation Project, the program seeks to connect high need school districts, higher ed institutions, and organizations with experience in developing and training school leaders who will work together to improve preparation of school leaders.

The proposed eligibility and participation requirements are outlined in the link below. After a public comment period, it is anticipated that the proposed amendments will be presented for permanent adoption at the January BOR meeting.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/918hed3.pdf>

An emergency amendment aimed at prohibiting “meal shaming” was adopted to ensure that students whose parents/guardians have unpaid school meal fees are not treated differently from other students. The adopted amendment outlines specific policies and procedures associated with the new regulation.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/918p12a2.pdf>

The Board permanently adopted additions to the DASA regulations that were temporarily adopted in May. The changes pertain primarily to cyber bullying and the protection of transgender and gender non-conforming students.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/918p12a4.pdf>

The Board permanently adopted the new School Calendar/Minimum Instruction regulations. Some minor changes were made to clarify the regulation as it relates to the scheduling of exams, parent teacher conferences, superintendent conference days, and extraordinary weather condition closures.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/P-12%20-%20Review%20the%20Minimum%20Instructional%20Requirements%20for%20State%20Aid%20Purposes%20Presentation.pdf>