

Summary of March 12th Board of Regents Meeting

- The March 2018 Board of Regents (BOR) meeting began with a review of the new fiscal transparency requirements associated with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA requires that beginning with the 2018-19 school year, State Report Cards for each school building must include per-pupil expenditures of Federal, State and local funds. Commissioner Elia provided an overview of the new policy, pointed out some of the specific requirements, and outlined the steps NYSED is taking to ensure compliance.

Some of the important points included:

1. NYSED is developing a common accounting template that will be used across the state for reporting the expenditures.
2. ESSA requires that schools receiving either Comprehensive or Targeted Improvement Support have resource allocations periodically reviewed to ensure they are supporting necessary school improvements.
3. District spending reports will now need to reflect actual spending at the building level instead of being documented as district-wide expenditures. Communities will have access to this information and school/district leaders will need to be able to justify spending decisions. As an example, data was shown from one district where spending between buildings varied as much as \$6000/student.
4. Monies received through grants or school fund-raising efforts do not have to be reported.
5. Commissioner Elia hopes that the new budgeting requirements will create more equity across schools.
6. NYSED is working with a consultant group to assist with the development of the necessary accounting technology, and is collaborating with other states in creating the specifics of the plan.
7. In the coming months, NYSED will convene a working group of experts to help establish the accounting guidelines. The information will be used to run pilot tests from volunteer school districts to better establish the standards for reporting.
8. The first submission of finalized reports for the 2018-19 school year will be due in December 2019.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/Full%20Board%20-%20Monday%20--%20Every%20Student%20Succeeds%20Act%20Financial%20Transparency%20Requirement.pdf>

- The Board was updated on the work being done by the Early Childhood Committee. The workgroup presented a set of recommendations which would expand opportunities for preschool students with disabilities to be enrolled in integrated early childhood programs. They are also proposing an alternative methodology for reimbursement which would remedy inconsistencies with the current formula.

Stakeholder feedback was recently gathered through a field survey and several stakeholder meetings. NYSED will be submitting recommendations to the Division of Budget on April 1, 2018.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/P-12%20-%20New%20Funding%20Methodology%20for%20Preschool%20Inclusion%20Recommendations%20for%20Consideration.pdf>

- The Board adopted a previously discussed amendment that expands the option for postsecondary faculty with acceptable postsecondary teaching experience to pursue a Transitional G certificate in any certification area. This option had been previously available only in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math.

An amendment was also approved which allows individuals who hold a pre-professional teaching certificate to complete their student teaching experience while they are employed as a teaching assistant.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/318hea1.pdf>

- The Board approved a previously discussed amendment which creates a K-12 teaching certificate in the area of Computer Science.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/318hea2.pdf>

- Information was presented to the Board for discussion relating to the creation of a Transitional K certificate which would allow certain NYS licensed and registered health professionals to teach Health. SED is proposing the new pathway be available to physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and RNs. The proposal will be sent out for the required 60-day comment period before being presented for adoption at the July 2018 Board of Regents meeting.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/318hed1.pdf>

