

Summary of May 2018 Board of Regents Meeting

School Climate and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) continue to be areas of emphasis for the Board of Regents (BOR). The May 2018 BOR meeting began with an overview of the work being done by the School Climate and Student Engagement Workgroup as they move toward implementation of P-12 Social Emotional Learning benchmarks, policies and programs.

Representatives from the workgroup shared a set of recently developed guiding goals along with a draft of potential grade level benchmarks. Information from several districts that have been working to implement effective SEL practices was also shared with the Board.

The workgroup hopes to send more formalized information out to the field in June 2018.

Link [here](#)

On April 18, 2018, a bill was proposed in the NYS Assembly that would significantly alter Education Law 3012-d which governs teacher and principal evaluations. The Senate introduced a similar bill on April 27, 2018. During Monday's meeting, the Board was updated on the potential implications of the proposed amendment if it does become law.

While NYS assessments would still be administered as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), under the new law, the use of test results in the evaluation of principals and teachers would become optional instead of mandatory. Individual districts would now determine how test results would be factored into evaluations through collective bargaining. Additionally, use of the current growth model for evaluation purposes would be eliminated. The selection of assessment criteria for Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) would also be subject to collective bargaining. As currently written, the bill would become effective immediately if passed. Districts, however, would have the option of continuing current APPR plans until their current collective bargaining agreement expires.

From the discussion that followed the presentation, it was clearly evident that the majority of Board of Regents members are in favor of the legislation. Commissioner Elia cautioned the BOR that the bill has not yet been passed and could be significantly modified before being voted on. She also expressed concern regarding potential unintended consequences that could result from the legislation.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/P-12%20Education%20Committee%20-%20APPR%20Review.pdf>

The Board took emergency action on an amendment relating to the reporting of harassment, bullying or discrimination incidents pursuant to the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA). School climate data was presented showing the large percentage of LGBTQ and transgender students who claim to have been harassed or assaulted in NYS schools based on a 2015 survey. Rates of student suicide attempts for these subgroups were also presented. The adopted amendment includes more specific language which provides illustrative examples of the types of incidents that must be reported.

The amendment takes effect immediately and it is anticipated that the change will be presented for permanent adoption at the September BOR meeting.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/518p12a4.pdf>

In February, the BOR approved an amendment to the Commissioner's regulations relating to health education which will require all schools to include instruction in mental health as part of the curriculum. The proposal was presented for final

adoption after representatives from the Mental Health Advisory Council presented some recommendations and updated the BOR on the public feedback that was received. The amendment was permanently adopted to become effective on July 1, 2018.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/518p12ppca1.pdf>

Additional link [here](#).

The Higher Education Committee discussed a proposal which would continue to provide districts with flexibility in allowing uncertified substitutes to work more than 40 days in a school year. The current provision expires on June 30, 2018 and the BOR discussed extending the provision through June 30, 2020. Several BOR members had concerns about the extension and the item was tabled until the June 2018 meeting.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/518hea1.pdf>