

## Summary of October 2022 Board of Regents Meeting

- The NYS Board of Regents conducted their monthly meeting on Monday, October 3, and Tuesday, October 4. Chancellor Lester Young opened the meeting recognizing October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month and emphasized the value that disabled employees bring to the workforce.
- NYSED Deputy Commissioner for Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES), Ceylane Meyers-Ruff, facilitated an overview of the ACCES-VR (Vocational Rehabilitation) program which assists individuals with disabilities to achieve and maintain employment. ACCES-VR partners with businesses across the state and the NYS Department of Labor in this collaborative effort.

Representatives from several of the collaborative partners reviewed some of the initiatives currently in progress and highlighted many of the resources which are available to existing and potential employers and job seekers.

Several presenters expressed concern that there is a lack of awareness of ACCES-VR resources among both schools and families across the state, which is limiting opportunities for students to utilize the services. It was also stressed that students are eligible to begin participation early in high school so that services can be more effectively utilized in the future.

More detailed information on the presentation and the various resources that are available through ACCES-VR can be found in the link below.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/FB%20-%20National%20Disability%20Employment%20Awareness%20Month.pdf>

The Board began formal discussions on priorities for the 2022-2023 Legislative Initiatives and State Aid Budget proposals. Commissioner Rosa emphasized that the goals will focus on supporting initiatives within three pillars, **Equity**, **Improving Customer Service**, and the **P-20 Continuum**. Areas of focus for each of the pillars include:

- **Equity**
  - Advancing Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education
  - Expanding access to Career and Technical Education
  - Ensuring funding equity for Students with Disabilities
  - Preventing hunger from impeding learning
  - Responding to the impact of the pandemic
  - Promoting transparency through accountability

### **Improving Customer Service**

- Providing more efficient customer service through increasing staff capacity and modernizing the NYSED's information technology systems.
- Supporting multilingual students and their families.
- Creating a Data and Information Management System to support fact based decision making

- Providing mandate relief to school districts and NYSED.
- 

## **P-20 Continuum**

- Providing high quality, integrated, seamless, universally available Pre-Kindergarten.
- Incentivizing regionalization and promoting Regional Technical High Schools.
- Supporting access to the Arts, Libraries and Cultural Education Institutions.
- Expanding access to advanced coursework.

With regards to the **Regents State Aid** portion of the budget proposal, points of emphasis will focus on the expected 100% phase-in of Foundation Aid and providing wealth adjusted minimum increases. Priorities include:

- Obtaining funds to research and update the Foundation Aid Formula to better identify measures of student and community need such as updated poverty counts.
- Fully funding expense - based aids including Building Aid, Transportation Aid, Excess Cost Aid, and BOCES Aid to assist with more accurate regional cost determinations.
- Expanding Access to Career and Technical Education by enhancing BOCES and Special Services Aid, and increasing funding streams to support CTE placements.
- Increased funding to assist districts with supporting multilingual students and their families, especially for districts that have experienced significant enrollment increases.
- Increased funding for relieving school district mandates, such as reimbursement for efforts associated with transitioning to electric buses.

The links below provided more detailed information on what was presented. The first link highlights the proposed Legislative Initiatives and the second link focuses on the State Aid proposal.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/SA%20-%202023-2024%20Regents%20Budget%20and%20Legislative%20Initiatives.pdf>

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/SA%20-%202023-2024%20Regents%20State%20Aid%20Proposal.pdf>

- The Board approved an emergency amendment related to restarting the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) School Accountability System.

Deputy Commissioner for the Office of School Accountability, Jason Harmon, presented an overview of NYSED's most recent efforts for restarting the school accountability process. In August 2022, NYSED submitted an accountability proposal to the US Department of Education which was recently approved.

A key aspect of the new plan is that **only 2020-2021 data will be used for any accountability determinations**. Additionally, there are several changes associated with:

- The performance indicators that will be used in accountability formulas.
- How performance levels will be calculated.
- How academic progress will be measured.

The Deputy Commissioner stated that NYSED staff is working on guidance to send out to the field which will better clarify the components of the new accountability system. ESSAA representatives will be seeking updated information from NYSED staff at the upcoming **October 17 Stakeholder Meeting** which will then be forwarded to the membership.

- The Board approved an amendment relating to the Regents Examination Appeal Review Process. NYSED Director for Standards, Instruction, and Educational Technology, Shannon Logan, expressed that many smaller schools across the state have shared concerns that, due to lack of qualified staff, they were not able to meet the requirements of the recently expanded process for appealing Regents Exam scores. The approved amendment allows schools, that do not employ the requisite number of teachers and/or administrators, to appoint another staff person who holds a pupil personnel service, teaching, or administrative certificate to participate in the review process.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1022p12a1revised.pdf>

- The Board formally adopted a previously approved emergency amendment relating to instruction provided to students in a home, hospital, or institutional setting other than a school (Homebound Instruction). Some minor revisions were added to the original amendment based on public comments that were received.

The amendment increases the minimum required hours of instruction for students receiving Homebound Instruction. **Prior to July 1, 2023**, elementary level students must receive 5 hours of instruction per week and to the extent possible, at least one hour of instruction each day. At the secondary level, students must receive 10 hours of instruction per week and to the extent possible, at least two hours of instruction per day. **After July 1, 2023**, elementary students will be required to receive 10 hours per week with at least two hours of instruction per day and secondary students will be required to receive 15 hours of instruction per week at the secondary with at least three hours of instruction per day.

- These provisions also pertain to students who are serving a long-term suspension
- <https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1022p12a2.pdf>
- The Board discussed proposed amendments which would provide more flexibility for candidates to complete Student Teaching requirements and for individuals pursuing the Individual Evaluation Pathway to certification. The proposal would expand some of the flexibilities that were previously approved relating to how the required hours of the student teaching/paid internship are measured and how student teaching for candidates who are seeking multiple certificates can be structured.
- It is anticipated that the proposals will be presented for adoption at the February 2023 Board of Regents meeting following the 60-day public comment period.
- <https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1022hed3.pdf>
- The Board discussed a proposed amendment to revise the definition of a “Prospective School Employee.” Due to the pandemic, many questions have arisen over whether

individuals who are providing online instruction or support to students are required to be cleared through the fingerprinting process.

The proposed amendment seeks to clarify the definition of a “prospective school employee” to include any individual who will be reasonably expected by a school to provide services which require either online or direct interaction with students.

- It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for adoption at the February 2023 Board of regents meeting.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1022hed1.pdf>