

Summary of April 2023 Board of Regents Meeting

The Board of Regents conducted their monthly meeting on Monday, April 17th and Tuesday April 18th. Chancellor Lester Young opened the meeting with a moment of silence commemorating the life of Randall Robinson who passed away on March 24th. Robinson, an American lawyer, author, and activist, was known for his impassioned opposition to apartheid and advocacy on behalf of Haitian immigrants.

- The opening session focused on the status of the **Performance-Based Learning and Assessment Network (PLAN) Pilot** and the work of the **Graduation Measures Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC)**.

Deputy Commissioner, P-12 Instructional Support, Angelique Johnson-Dingle, reviewed feedback received during the Graduation Measures stakeholder meetings that is guiding the work of the commission. One area frequently mentioned during the sessions was the need for multiple measures to better evaluate student learning in lieu of or in addition to Regents Examinations. Many stakeholders emphasized the need for more experiential work-based learning activities, performance assessments, and multiple assessment measures for determining graduation readiness.

As part of the Graduation Measures Initiative and in support of these concerns, the PLAN Pilot will explore how performance-based learning and assessment can be implemented in a diverse range of schools. A group of pilot schools is currently being selected from various regions across the state and will begin engaging in extensive professional development toward the goal of implementing performance-based practices in classrooms beginning in the Fall of 2024. Expanded implementation is currently planned for Fall 2025 and Fall 2026.

- The Board was also updated on the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Graduation Requirements. Deputy Commissioner Johnson-Dingle provided an overview of discussions that have taken place during the Commission's monthly meetings that began in December 2022. In the most recent meetings, BRC members met with representatives from both the Department of Labor and Institutes of Higher Education to talk about college and workforce readiness skills.

The link below includes the slides that were presented during both the PLAN Pilot and BRC presentations, and provides more detailed information about the work being done in both groups.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/FB%20-%20Performance-Based%20Learning%20and%20Assessment%20Networks%20Pilot%20-%20Blue%20Ribbon%20Commission%20on%20Graduation%20Measures%20.pdf>

- Deputy Commissioner, P-12 Operational Supports, Jason Harmon, facilitated an overview of the most recent graduation data. The Deputy Commissioner compared graduation rate data for the cohort of students that entered grade 9 in 2018 (2022 graduates) to cohorts dating back as far as ten years including:
 - An overview of the overall cohort graduation rate trend over the past 10 years.
 - A breakdown of the types of diplomas that were awarded over the past three years.
 - The number of graduates who pursued Multiple Pathways to Graduation during the past two years.
 - The number of students achieving the recently implemented Seal of Biliteracy and Seal of Civic Readiness in the past two years.
 - Graduation rates based on District Need/Resource Group factors over the past three years.
 - Graduation rates broken down by ethnicity.
 - The five-year trend of graduation rates trend for English Language Learners.
 - The ten-year trend of graduation rates for Students with Disabilities.
 - The ten-year trend of graduation rates for Economically Disadvantaged Students.
 - Disaggregated dropout rate data for the 2018 cohort.
 - Number of COVID exemptions from Regents Examinations that were used in achieving a high school diploma for the 2018 cohort.

The link below includes the various charts and graphs used during the presentation.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/P12%20-%20Four-Year%20Graduation%20Rates%20for%20the%202018%20Cohort.pdf>

- The Board discussed the proposed **Prohibition of Corporal Punishment and Aversive Interventions** amendment which includes regulatory changes relating to:
 - Prohibition of corporal punishment and aversive interventions.
 - Prohibited use of prone restraint and seclusion.
 - Limited instances where use of timeout and restraint is allowed.
 - Implementation of required training for all school staff members who regularly interact with students.
 - Increased requirements relating to data collection and reporting of incidents.

During the discussion following the presentation of the amendment, several Board members expressed concerns regarding the need to provide schools with the necessary resources that will be required to effectively implement these significant changes.

After the required 60 Day public comment period, it is anticipated that the newly proposed regulations will be presented for permanent adoption at the July 2023 Board of Regents meeting.

The link below includes the specific text of the proposed amendment.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/423p12d1.pdf>

- Deputy Commissioner for Higher Education, William Murphy introduced a proposed amendment relating to Initial Reissuance, Provisional Renewal, and the Time Extension Requirements for teachers and school leaders who hold Initial and Provisional certificates. The change will allow certificate holders to obtain up to two Initial Reissuances or Provisional Renewals and provide for more flexibilities with eligibility requirements.

The link below provides the specific language of the new amendment and access to the slides that more clearly breakdown the various pathways and complexities associated with both qualifying for, and taking advantage of the added flexibilities.

Following the 60-day public comment period, it is anticipated that the amendment will be presented to the Board of Regents for adoption at its July 2023 meeting.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/HE%20-%20Proposed%20Revisions%20to%20the%20Initial%20Reissuance%2C%20Provisional%20Renewal%2C%20and%20Time%20Extension%20Requirements.pdf>

- A proposed amendment was approved which extends, by one year, the date that candidates who complete a program leading to Provisional School Counselor Certification would need to apply and qualify for the certificate. The deadline is now extended to February 2, 2024.

The link below provides the specific language of the newly adopted amendment.

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/423hea1.pdf>