



**Council of Administrators
and Supervisors**

Supporting Educational Leadership

EMPIRE STATE SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

Supporting school leaders, every day.

Summary of October 2023 Stakeholders Meeting

The **Empire State Supervisors and Administrators Association (ESSAA)** held its monthly Stakeholder Meeting on Monday, October 30, 2023, via videoconference. Participants representing NYSED included Commissioner of Education, Betty Rosa; Deputy Commissioner, P12 Instructional Support, Angelique Johnson-Dingle; and Deputy Commissioner, P-12 Operational Supports, Jason Harmon.

ESSAA was represented at the meeting by President, Carol Conklin-Spillane; Executive Director, Mike Starvaggi; Executive Vice President, Skip Voorneveld; Director of Information Resources, Celia Strino; Vice President, Dr. Shireen Fasciglione; Vice President, John Rickert; Vice President, John Zampaglione; ESSAA member, Jennifer Martino; ESSAA member, Vince DiGrandi; and Regents/NYSED Liaison, Paul Scampini.

Important Note: Recently, in an effort to make Stakeholder Meetings more productive, NYSED has begun providing ESSAA representatives with a written summary of topics they will be addressing prior to the meeting. The summary includes updated background information, data, and links to additional guidance and resources on each of the areas being discussed. The summary is presented in a bulleted format, is easy to read, and includes useful talking points relating to the many initiatives that are being worked on at NYSED which can be shared with colleagues and staff members.

The informational summary for this meeting is available as an attachment at the end of this meeting report.

Specific Topics discussed during the meeting included:

Draft 2024-2025 State Assessment Calendar

Deputy Commissioner Harmon informed us that the draft testing dates for the **2024-2025 3-8 assessments** will be released next week. NYSED is seeking feedback on potential conflicts with the proposed dates by December 1st so the schedule can be finalized before the end of this calendar year.

The Deputy Commissioner also shared that stakeholder feedback for **2025 Regents Exams** will be solicited in the near future with the goal of having them finalized by the end of June.

Future Scoring of 3-8 Assessments

Deputy Commissioner Harmon said that NYSED has begun to explore a process for statewide scoring of 3-8 assessments. Under the newly proposed model, after schools administer the tests, a vendor hired by NYSED would complete the scoring of all constructed response questions.

NYSED believes the new scoring process will alleviate the significant loss of instructional time and financial investment that is required to score the exams locally when teachers are pulled from classrooms to do the scoring.

Mrs. Conklin-Spillane commended NYSED for their efforts to pursue this initiative, but also mentioned that there is an advantage to local scoring in that teachers get immediate, first-hand feedback on student results. Deputy Commissioner Harmon acknowledged the concern but feels that the new scoring procedures should also allow NYSED to provide the assessment instructional reports back to schools much sooner than in the past.

Special Education Data Reporting Changes

Based on a recent mandate issued by the US Department of Education Special Education Office, NYSED is developing new requirements for the submission of Special Education Events Data for the 2023-2024 school year.

The purpose of the new requirement is to more effectively monitor and support compliance with certain provisions associated with the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). NYSED is working with student management system vendors such as Clear Track and Frontline, to ensure districts have the technical capacity to submit the data efficiently.

Proposed Changes For CTE/Media Arts Course Credits

Deputy Commissioner Angelique Johnson-Dingle reviewed a proposed amendment that will be presented at the upcoming November Board of Regents meeting to address inequities related to credits earned in high school media arts courses.

Currently, media arts course credit can be counted toward both the Individual Arts Assessment (IAAP) and the CTE 4+1 Pathways toward meeting graduation requirements. Media arts, however, the only arts discipline that does not have a formal classroom teacher certification designation, is taught by teachers who hold either visual arts or CTE certification. Concerns have been raised with the current policy that states: if the course is offered for credit in the arts, it must be taught by an art teacher, and if the course is

offered for CTE credit, the teacher must have CTE certification. As a result, CTE students who are sitting in the same classroom as art students, in a course taught by an art teacher, are not able to apply the earned credit toward the CTE 4+1 Pathway. The same scenario is true for art students sitting in a class taught by a CTE instructor.

The proposed amendment would eliminate the current inequity by allowing students to apply media arts course credits toward either the IAAP and CTE pathway regardless of whether the class is taught by an art teacher or a CTE teacher.

Status of Revisions Pertaining to Mixed Competition Regulations

Commissioner Rosa updated us on the process that is being followed for the development of new regulations pertaining to mixed competition in interscholastic athletics. NYSED recently conducted five regional forums across the state to solicit input from stakeholders. Commissioner Rosa emphasized that their goal is to ensure that the new regulations comply with Title IX requirements and provide fair and equal access to school sports for students.

Graduation Measures Update

Deputy Commissioner Dingle-Johnson reminded our group that representatives from the Graduation Measures Blue Ribbon Commission will present their proposed recommendations at the upcoming November 13th Board of Regents meeting. When asked about the potential timeline for implementing the recommendations the Deputy Commissioner stated that, due to the need to review the recommendations and analyze the financial impact, the earliest we would see any of the proposals presented for adoption would be the Spring of 2024.

Guidance Related to Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) Ruling

Many ESSAA members have expressed concerns about the increased costs associated with the recent Court of Appeals decision holding that students with disabilities are entitled to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) until the day before their 22nd birthday.

Deputy Commissioner Johnson-Dingle responded that NYSED is aware of the increased costs associated with the court ruling and that they are including increased funding requests in their 2024-25 budget proposal to help offset the increased costs.

ESSAA Vice President/Special Education Administrator, Celia Strino, emphasized that Adult Transition Services need to be included as a component of the funding requests. Deputy Commissioner Dingle-Johnson agreed and noted that NYSED is also working to improve partnerships with the Office of Adult Career and Career Continuing Education (ACCES), the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), and the Department of Labor, to assist districts with meeting the requirements of the FAPE ruling.

Biases Associated with Declining SAT and ACT Scores

Mr. Voorneveld asked that Commissioner Rosa and NYSED staff take steps to present some clarity to the public on the criticism educators are receiving with regards to declining SAT and ACT scores. He noted that the public needs to know that fewer and fewer students are taking SAT and ACT tests each year and also emphasized that the number of students across the state who are taking advanced AP and IB courses is steadily increasing.

NYSED Stakeholder Meeting Summary Notes

NYSED Stakeholder Meeting Summary Notes To request a copy of ESSAA's Stakeholder Summary Annotated Agenda (informational summary NYSED provided on each of the topics discussed during this meeting, including, but not discussed at the meeting, is an update on the need for the Recruitment and Retention of Educational Leaders), please email bberry@essaa.org.

ESSAA Members:

If you have any feedback on the foregoing issues or would like to suggest a topic to be addressed with the Commissioner at an upcoming meeting, please e-mail us at info@essaa.org. New topics will be submitted to our Stakeholder Committee for consideration.