Summary of September 2026 Board of Regents Meeting

The Board of Regents conducted their monthly meeting on Monday, September 14, and Tuesday, September 15, 2026. Chancellor Lester Young began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the new school year.

Topics discussed during the meeting included:

- **Proposed Framework to Decouple State Assessments from Graduation Requirements**
- **State Aid Process for 2027-2028 Budget Proposal**
- **How the Baseball Hall of Fame is partnering with schools to implement NY Inspires**
- **Proposed amendment relating to who is allowed to authorize students to return to athletic activities after injuries.**
- **Proposed amendment relating to the extension of current flexibilities that are in place for incidental teaching**

• Approved Motions to Decouple State Assessments from Current Graduation Requirements

The Board unanimously approved a motion that sunsets current diploma assessment requirements and transitions to a one diploma system that aligns with two major goals of the NY Inspires initiative.

Key points discussed during the presentation included:

1. A review of the process and timeline that NYSED has followed to sunset the multiple Regents Exam graduation requirements, and establish a single diploma.
2. The timeline for the new framework that goes into effect beginning in the 2027-2028 school year was reviewed. This year's 2027 graduating class will be subject to the current requirements.
3. Presenters made special note to stress the fact that Regents Exams **are not** going away, but will no longer be required for students to earn a diploma. They will, however, remain important as their role shifts to become more aligned with the current purpose of the 3 – 8 assessments. It was emphasized that NYSED is expanding the ways students can earn credits toward graduation by demonstrating competency through multiple measures of achievement that are developed at the local level.

4. Beginning with the graduating class of 2028, students who pass several Regents examinations will be recognized through **Seals of Endorsements** attached to their diploma.
5. Additional regulatory amendments will be presented for approval at future Regents meetings. It is anticipated that the next round of changes will be presented for adoption at the February Board of Regents meeting and will take effect July 1, 2027.
6. During the Board discussion after the presentation, several Board members expressed concern that stakeholders are frustrated that educator and parent tools relating to the new requirements are not currently available. Chancellor Young responded that these types of resources cannot be formally developed until the new regulations are approved by the Board, and that they should begin to become available in the near future.

The two links below include more specific information related to the presentation. The first link includes the specific language in the motion that decoupled the Regents Exams from graduation requirements. The second link includes the slides that were referenced during the presentation.

https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/926bra4revised.pdf

https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/FB%20Monday%20-%20New%20York%20Inspires%20-%20Sunsetting%20Diploma%20Assessment%20Requirements%20and%20Moving%20to%20One%20New%20York%20State%20High%20School%20Diploma.pdf

- **Discussion of 2027-2028 State Aid Budget Development Process**

Members of the State Aid Subcommittee began their public discussions with the Board on priorities for the 2027-2028 NYS Budget Proposal. Many of the key concerns that were raised during a series of stakeholder meetings in recent months were reviewed. One of the key priorities remains the need for strong advocacy to continue the appropriate funding of Foundation Aid. Also emphasized was the need for adequate funding to support implementation of NY Inspires, especially in the area of professional development.

NYSED staff members reviewed some key areas of this year's enacted budget and also highlighted priorities from last year's budget proposal that were not funded adequately.

In the coming months the various subcommittees will narrow down their priorities with a goal of presenting their final proposal to the Board in December. Progress updates

will be presented and discussed at each of the upcoming Board meetings through December.

The link below includes the slides that were referenced during the presentation.

https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/SA%20-%20State%20Aid-Budget%20Proposal%20Process.pdf

- **How the Baseball Hall of Fame is Working to Assist Schools with Implementing NY Inspires**

  Representatives for the Baseball Hall of Fame presented an overview of a unique partnership with NYS school districts and BOCES to reshape the museum's education program. A key focus of the initiative is to integrate the goals and principes of the Portrait of a Graduate into their in-person and online education programs.

  The link below includes the slides referenced during the presentation.

  https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/CE%20-%20First%20in%20Class%20-%20Learning%2C%20Leadership%20and%20Discovery.pdf

- **Proposed Amendment Relating to Who is Allowed to Authorize Students to Return to Athletic Activities.**

  The Board discussed an amendment that would authorize nurse practitioners, in addition to physicians, to evaluate and authorize students to resume athletic activities following removal under concussion and sudden cardiac arrest laws.

  It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for adoption at the January 2027 Board meeting.

  The link below includes the actual wording of the amendment.
  https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/926p12d1.pdf

- **Proposed amendment extends current flexibilities that are in place for incidental teaching.**

  In order to assist districts with ongoing staffing challenges, the Board extended current flexibilities that are in place relating to Incidental Teaching.

The link below includes the actual wording to the amendment.

https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/926hea1.pdf