



NEWSLINE

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ESSA UPDATE

The New York State Education Department is awaiting a response from the United States Department of Education regarding its Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan, submitted in September 2017. Should you have any ESSA related questions, please send them to: ESSA@nysed.gov.

THIS JUST IN...

The Board of Regents discussed the following items presented during its December 2017 meeting:

Meeting of the Board of Regents

- [NYS Board of Regents Early Childhood Workgroup's Blue-Ribbon Committee Final Budget Recommendations](#)
- [NYS Board of Regents Early Childhood Workgroup's Blue-Ribbon Committee Presentation](#)

P-12 Education/Higher Education Joint Meeting

- [Update on the Smart Schools Bond Act](#)
 - [Smart Schools Bond Act](#)
- [Grade-Level Extensions for Certain Teaching Candidates Who Hold a Students with Disabilities Generalist Teaching Certificate](#)
- [Option for Certain Students with Disabilities to Graduate with a Local Diploma](#)

Higher Education

- [Registration of School Building Leader Programs and School Building Leader Evaluation](#)
 - [Professional Standards for Educational Leaders](#)
 - [Mentoring Requirement for Professional Certification](#)
 - [Accreditation Through an Alternative Professional Association](#)
 - [Greater Flexibility in Alternative Teacher Preparation Programs](#)
 - [New Certification Area and Tenure Area for Computer Science](#)
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UPDATES FROM COMMISSIONER ELIA

- [Parent Update: Opportunities for Students](#)

FROM THE DESK OF ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER IRA SCHWARTZ

2017 has been a momentous year for our nation and a busy one for the Office of Accountability (OA). As the year draws to a close, I want to share with you some of the major initiatives in which the OA has been involved.



In 2017, we:

- Staffed the Department's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Think Tank, constituting over 100 stakeholder organizations, and oversaw the conduct of over 135 meetings statewide, plus the issuance of multiple surveys. As a result, more than 4,000 persons participated in the development of the NYS ESSA plan, which was submitted to the United States Department of Education on September 18, 2017.
- Coordinated the Department's successful efforts to amend state law and Commissioner's Regulations to align with the new ESSA requirements pertaining to the education of homeless youth (i.e., McKinney-Vento).
- Articulated, within the ESSA Plan, a comprehensive vision for approaching school improvement through targeted support. This vision extends the role of the Department as a partner in technical assistance and allows the Department to focus its resources and support on the schools that are having the greatest difficulty making progress.

- Launched a new online LEA Application for ESSA-Funded Programs in the Spring of 2017 that resulted in a much more user-friendly application and expedited review and approval of LEA Applications for ESSA-Funded Programs. To support the launch, we provided increased technical assistance and support to LEAs through regional trainings, webinars, and individual phone calls.
- Implemented a new Technical Assistance process with 34 Focus Districts, which allowed districts to receive critical feedback and support on challenges they identified.
- Continued to evolve the DTSDE process to emphasize technical assistance. This includes making changes so that all schools receiving a DTSDE review this school year (2017-18) will now receive a series of follow-up support visits. This allows schools to continue to receive guidance during the year and provides school leaders with continuing assistance on challenges they face.
- Launched an improved, user-centered redesign of the state-provided growth online resources webpage, “State Growth Measures Toolkits” (<http://nysed-staging.nysed.gov/state-growth-measures-toolkits>).

While rolling out these new initiatives, we continued to provide technical assistance and support to districts and schools while carrying out our fiduciary responsibilities to monitor the use of Federal Funds. This year, we:

- Approved 965 Consolidated Applications providing \$1,251,341,229 to school districts.
- Reviewed and approved 285 School Improvement Grant Applications that provided \$61,240,000 in School Improvement funding to districts, including grants to promote socio-economic integration efforts to pilot schools.
- Made 39 McKinney-Vento grant awards for more than \$4.3 million to support 138 LEAs in their work with homeless students around the state.
- Approved 22 Title I Reward School grants of up to \$75,000 each. Through this grant, 20 principals were trained as mentors and partnered with 20 low-performing school principals to share best practices.
- Reviewed and provided feedback on 463 District Comprehensive Improvement Plans (DCIPs) and School Comprehensive Education Plans (SCEPs) and provided small group capacity building training related to review of the SCEPs to 64 LEAs.
- Conducted 144 Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness (DTSDE) school visits using assigned Integrated Intervention Teams (IIT). Follow up support was provided to each school to assess the progress of recommendation implementation and to develop additional next steps to sustain improvement efforts.
- Implemented a District Technical Assistance Review (DTAR) system that focuses on targeted needs identified by each district. As a result, we completed 34 DTAR visits and provided specific feedback to address the needs each district identified.
- Conducted 15 school visits to assess each school’s progress with its select DTSDE Tenet for the Demonstrable Improvement Indicators Review (DIIR).
- Conducted six onsite and eight remote-site regional trainings and created a library of more than 20 pre-recorded webinars related to the new LEA Application for ESSA-Funded Programs.
- Conducted 146 LEA Title I monitoring reviews and eight Neglected and Delinquent facility reviews.
- Made demonstrable improvement determinations for 64 Receivership Schools based on 2016-17 assessments and made progress and removal determinations for 174 Priority Schools based on 2016-17 assessments.
 - Provided approximately 35,000 teachers and 4,500 principals with growth scores and ratings as part of the Annual Professional Performance Reviews.

DID YOU KNOW...?

The U.S. Department of Education released a question-and-answer document supporting the unanimous March 2017 U.S. Supreme Court opinion on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

[Read More Here](#)

As we move forward to implement New York’s ESSA plan, as well as build upon the initiatives begun in 2017, we expect next year to be eventful as well. We look forward to partnering with you to improve education for the children of New York and wish you happy holidays and a great new year.

TITLE I TEAM SEEKING LEAS FOR NEW SELF-ASSESSMENT PILOT

The Title I School and Community Services team is seeking up to 50 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) willing to collaborate with program staff to pilot a new Self-Assessment Monitoring tool in early Spring 2018. Our goal is to create and deploy a new resource for providing school and district staff with targeted technical assistance on a range of programmatic and fiscal topics related to implementation of several federal grant programs outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Toward that end, NYSED is seeking to establish a cohort of LEAs that reflect the diversity of the State (e.g., geographic, district size, urban/rural/suburban settings, high/medium/low need/resource capacity) to participate in the pilot. Participating

LEAs will have the opportunity to provide staff with valuable input about how to most effectively engage with district and school staff in order to ensure the effective implementation of program requirements that maximizes positive outcomes for students.

LEAs may also call the Title I office at: 518-473-0295 or e-mail questions/concerns to: conappta@nysed.gov with the subject line "Self-Assessment Pilot."

THINGS TO NOTE

- [State Education Department Identifies 27 Schools to Be Removed from Priority School Status, 8 from Receivership Status](#)
- [Press Release: New Professional Standards for Educational Leaders](#)
- [Press Release: Expansion of Safety Net Option for Students with Disabilities to Earn Local Diploma](#)
- [Press Release: Early Childhood Workgroup's Blue-Ribbon Committee Presents Budget Recommendations](#)
- [Press Release: 2018 Budget and Legislative Priorities and State Aid Request for the 2018-2019 School Year](#)
- [New York State Archives Invites Students to Enter Student Research Awards Contest](#)
- [Education Department Encourages Students to Apply for the 2018 New York State Summer School of the Arts](#)
- [State Education Department Awards \\$4.76 Million for Four Smart Transfer Early College High School Programs](#)
- [State Education Department Announces Nominees for 2018 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#)

OA TEAMS

[Accountability, Policy & Administration](#)
[Field Support](#)
[Metrics](#)
[Title I](#)

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STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS - AMHERST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

The 2017-18 Reward School designation is a testament to faculty and staff at Amherst Central High School whose mastery of content knowledge and instructional delivery has created a robust academic environment for all students. Amherst Central School District, located near Buffalo, N.Y., prides itself on being a close-knit, culturally diverse learning community where students' instructional goals are supported and intense commitment is given to the value of co-curricular activities, engagement in school climate, and student-leadership growth opportunities.

With Board of Education support, the district's data-driven framework for success at Amherst Central High School includes:

- Appropriate use of data by building-based data teams to drive dynamic instruction and guide annual strategic goal setting.
- Ongoing development of an in-depth culturally responsive teaching model targeting inclusiveness and traditionally under-served subgroups.
- Institutionally focused professional development and continuous improvement built on a common language of instruction, clinical supervision and mentoring.
- Strong RtI program with major focus on at-risk students and tracking interventions through the Instructional Support Team Model.

For more information regarding these strategies, please contact Gregory Pigeon, Principal, Amherst Central High School, at: gpigeon@amherstschools.org.

REMINDER: NEW YORK STATE IS ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2019 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The New York State (NYS) Teacher of the Year program, administered by the New York State Education Department, recognizes and celebrates exceptionally skilled and passionate educators. Anyone may nominate a great teacher. Applications may be found at: www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/toty/home.html and are due on Thursday, February 1, 2018. If you have questions or would like further information about the NYS Teacher of the Year program, please e-mail toty@nysed.gov.