



NEWSLINE

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ESSA UPDATE

In January 2018, the United States Department of Education (USDE) approved New York's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) school and district accountability plan. As the New York State Education Department develops strategies for the implementation of the ESSA plan, next steps include:

- Discussion of Regents budget requests and potential changes to Ed. Law 211 with Executive and Legislature.
- Providing the Regents with draft regulations to support plan implementation.
- Disseminating materials to field providing guidance on approved plan.
- Making visits to selected schools likely to be identified for graduation rate.
- Revising Consolidated Application for Funding.
- Identifying Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools and Targeted Support and Improvement Schools based on 2017-18 School Year Results

For your review, NY's approved plan is posted to the Office of Accountability's ESSA Website as follows:

- Without tracked changes: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/essa/documents/nys-essa-plan-final-1-16-2018.pdf>
- With tracked changes: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/essa/documents/nys-essa-plan-final-1-16-2018-with-tracked-changes.pdf>

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 [February 2018 Meeting](#)

- [Presentation: Review of the Graduation Rate for the 2013 Cohort that Successfully Graduated in 2017](#)
- [Annual Professional Performance Review Updates](#)
- [State Education Department January 2018 Fiscal Report](#)
- [Proposed Amendment to §100.5 of the Commissioner's Regulations Relating to the Superintendent Determination Option for Certain Students with Disabilities to Graduate with a Local Diploma](#)



UPDATES FROM COMMISSIONER ELIA

- [Parent Update: High School Graduation Rates](#)
- [Parent Update: Approved ESSA Plan; New Grant Opportunities; Career Exploration for Students](#)
- [News & Notes: Approved ESSA Plan; New Grant Opportunities; Teacher Certification Flexibility](#)

FROM THE DESK OF ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER IRA SCHWARTZ RESPONDING TO STUDENTS STRENGTHS



During NYSED's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) public stakeholder engagement sessions, one of the themes most frequently articulated by participants was the need for educators to more intentionally design and implement curriculum and instruction that builds upon the knowledge and culture that students bring into the classroom from their homes and communities. Due to this feedback, among the 15 goals that the Board of Regents established for the State's ESSA plan are the following:

- Promote a relationship of trust, cultural responsiveness, and respect between schools and families, recognizing that student achievement and school improvement are shared responsibilities.
- Provide educators with opportunities for continual professional development in the areas of equity, anti-bias, multicultural, and culturally responsive pedagogies.

- Support districts and their communities in engaging in critical conversations about culturally responsive educational systems.

At the Board of Regents meeting in December 2017, the Regents voted to adopt the 2015 Professional Standards for Educational Leaders. In taking this action, the Board of Regents asked Department staff to provide a draft definition of cultural responsiveness to be used within the context of principal preparation and practice. That definition reads: *In broad terms, cultural responsiveness means creating instructional environments that propel learning by connecting new learning to each student's background and prior experience.*

Cultural responsiveness is a commitment to practices that help all students use landmarks of their own culture to build knowledge, skills, and attitudes. From an instructional standpoint, cultural responsiveness means making content accessible to students by teaching in a way that students understand. To do this, educational leaders must be able to relate aspects of students' daily lives to the curriculum. If educational leaders value students' cultural and linguistic background then educational leaders (and the members of their school staff) see these as capital to build on, not barriers to student learning. From an instructional standpoint, cultural responsiveness means using students' personal interest as a basis for connecting content to the student's personal experience. The aim is to improve the learning experience by enhancing student engagement. Cultural responsiveness advances and accelerates student learning by honoring and supporting students' cultural, linguistic, and racial experiences.

In January 2018, Deputy Commissioners John D'Agati and Angelica Infante-Green presented to the Board of Regents the Department's plan to convene an advisory group made up of leaders in the field of cultural responsiveness to inform and guide the Department's work, including making recommendations to refine this definition to reflect current thinking in culturally responsive education. During spring 2018, the Department expects to work with the advisory group to draft guiding principles and develop a framework to be used to engage stakeholders and collect feedback. The Department will present the proposal for a culturally responsive framework to the Board of Regents in September 2018, including a professional development plan to successfully implement the framework.

As this work begins, we'd like to hear from you. What do you believe should be the definition of culturally responsive education? What are practices in which you have engaged in your district, school, or classroom that you believe are models of culturally responsive instruction? We encourage you to send your feedback to accountinfo@nysed.gov and continue your engagement when the Department seeks more formal feedback on its plans later this year.

Let's work together to infuse cultural responsiveness into all district and school instruction and engagement practices, so that all students in New York benefit from the great diversity of our state.

DID YOU KNOW...?

The U.S. Department of Education announced New Student-Centered Funding Pilot Program on February 2, 2018.

[Read More Here](#)

2017 NATIONAL TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Congratulations to PS 249, the Caton School in Community School District 17 and PS 002, the Alfred Zimberg School in Community School District 30! The schools were recently honored at the 2017 National Title I Distinguished Schools Program on February 9, 2018 at the 2018 National Title I Conference in Philadelphia, Pa.

Each year through its National Title I Distinguished Schools Program, the National Title I Association publicly recognizes qualifying Title I schools for their outstanding achievements in education and having successfully used their Title I federal funds to improve the education for economically disadvantaged students. **PS 249, The Caton School** in Community School District 17 and **PS 002, Alfred Zimberg**

School in Community School District 30 in New York City were recognized as 2017 Title I Distinguished Schools by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) for the success of their educational programs and student academic progress.

PS 249, The Caton School was recognized for its achievement in the category, Exceptional Student Performance for Two or More Consecutive Years. PS 002, Alfred Zimberg School was recognized for the category, Significantly Closed the Achievement Gap between Student Groups. As Title I Distinguished Schools, the schools may be called upon to host visitors or to travel to other schools or venues in New York State to share the strategies and innovations that have contributed to their success.

Additional information about the National Title I Distinguished Schools Program is available on the National Title I Association website: <http://www.titlei.org/ds>.

THINGS TO NOTE

- Press Release: [Commissioner Identifies 155 High Achieving and High Progress Schools as Reward Schools](#)
- Press Release: [State Education Department Releases 2013 Cohort High School Graduation Rates](#)
- Press Release: [Statement from Board of Regents Chancellor Betty A. Rosa and State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia on Assembly Passage of the DREAM Act](#)
- [My Brother's Keeper: Changing the Narrative - February 2018](#)
- [Education Department Announces Summer Food Service Program](#)
- [2018 P-12 Education Budget Testimony](#)

OA TEAMS

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STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS - QUEENS GATEWAY TO HEALTH SCIENCES SECONDARY SCHOOL

Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School (Gateway) is committed to discipline and hard work. Our mission is for students to gain entrance to Tier 1 colleges and universities where they will prepare for careers in medicine, education, and technology. Gateway's 2017-18 New York State Reward School designation earmarks the school community's focus on excellence.

All Gateway students are expected to earn a Regents Diploma with advanced designation. "To foster academic growth, we program our highly effective teachers for the formative grade levels, which focus on skill-building and organizational strategies."

In addition to [The Framework for Great Schools](#), Gateway says its success is based on:

- Common Core-aligned literacy strategies embedded in curriculum maps and lesson plans for every course.
- Differentiated and student-centered classroom practice resulting from data-based inquiry and tuning protocols.

Gateway's says that its partnership with St. John's University facilitates teachers' daily refinement of practice to improve college readiness for all students, grades 6-12. In-house professors support both tenured and untenured teachers in addition to administration. For more information, please contact Judy A. Henry, Principal, Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School, at: JHenry2@schools.nyc.gov.

REGISTRATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Department requires that school districts making changes to the registration of schools and creating new schools for the 2018-19 school year, submit the appropriate forms for Public School Registration, which may be found at: <http://p12.nysed.gov/accountability/PublicSchoolRegistrationAPA.html>. The deadline for the 2018-19 school year is **Thursday, March 1, 2018**. However, extensions for submitting School Registration forms can be granted based on a written request from the district. The written request can be sent to: accountinfo@nysed.gov.

Public School Registration changes include:

- opening a new public school,
- closing an existing public school,
- modifying the grade organization of an existing public school, and/or
- changing the location of a school.

In addition to the submission of forms, regulations also require districts to submit a signed copy of the Board of Education resolution, explicitly approving all changes that have been requested for each school.

After a district's submission is received, NYSED staff will review the submission and the Commissioner will make recommendations to the Board of Regents regarding the approval of petitions for new schools. The district must satisfactorily demonstrate that the school will be operated in an educationally sound manner; follows applicable statutes, rules and regulations relating to public schools; and will operate in accordance with applicable building codes pursuant to a certificate of occupancy. School Registration submissions and inquiries regarding the process can be sent to: accountinfo@nysed.gov.

2017-18 TITLE I, PARTS A & D FINAL ALLOCATIONS POSTED

On January 16, 2018 the NYSED Title I School & Community Services Office posted final 2017-18 Title I, Parts A & D allocations for all Local Education Agencies (LEAs) online at:

- <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/allocations/1718/tiallocfinal.html>
- <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/allocations/1718/partddetailfinal.html>

Questions may be directed to the Office of Title I School & Community Services at (518) 473-0295, or conappta@nysed.gov.

OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY NEWSLINE SURVEY

The Office of Accountability is seeking your feedback regarding the content and design of the 2017 – 18 OA Newsline. Please complete a brief twelve question survey, which may be accessed at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OANewslineFeedback>.