



# NEWSLINE

VOLUME 1/ISSUE 3 - NOVEMBER 2017

## ESSA UPDATE

New York State's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan Monograph for Parents, which concisely explain New York's ESSA plan, have been posted in 15 languages. ESSA Monographs are also available in English for educators and school board members. All ESSA Monographs are located at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/essa.html>.

Please note that the New York State Education Department plans to make recommendations to the Board of Regents in December 2017 regarding budgetary and legislative initiatives to support ESSA implementation. You may send ESSA related questions to: [ESSA@nysed.gov](mailto:ESSA@nysed.gov).

---

## THIS JUST IN...

***The Board of Regents P-12 Committee discussed the following items presented during its November 2017 meeting:***

- [Climate Testing Pilot and an Overview of Effective School Climate Frameworks](#)
  - [Promoting Healthy School Climates](#)
- [2018 State Budget and Legislative Priorities](#)
- [Transition Planning and Services for Students and Youth with Disabilities](#)
  - [Supplemental Presentation: Transition Planning and Services for Students and Youth with Disabilities](#)
- [2015-18 Socioeconomic Integration Pilot Program \(SIPP\)](#)



## UPDATES FROM COMMISSIONER ELIA

- [November 2017 Parent Update](#)
- [News & Notes: Help for Students and Teachers Displaced by Recent Natural Disasters](#)

---

## FROM THE DESK OF ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER IRA SCHWARTZ

I was not surprised to learn that the State Education Department's recent pilot in seven high needs school districts that provided comprehensive eye examinations and free eye glasses to selected students found that many students who participated in the program had vision problems not detected by normal vision screening.



When I began my career with the State Education Department more than 35 years ago, one of the first projects on which I worked was a "Vision Van" staffed by personnel from the New York College of Optometry who provided comprehensive vision screening to students who were enrolled in the New York City Department of Education's "Double Gates" classes (i.e., students who had been retained in grade for two consecutive years.) The project found that a significant percentage of students tested were having difficulty reading at least in part because they were having trouble seeing.

In the Department's recent pilot, which was conducted in October as part of what we hope will be an annual Vision Health Awareness Month, there was a much higher incidence of amblyopia (lazy eye), a condition that can have a significant negative effect on vision, among those screened than normal. In fact, I had that condition as a child, and it impacted my school work as I could not read what was on the blackboard when I was seated in the back of the class (and was too embarrassed to tell the teachers of my condition). In my case, I had developed coping strategies for my poor distance vision, but those didn't work well when I started to learn French and couldn't read what the teacher was writing on the board.

A recent communication on the Department's pilot by the New York State United Teachers noted that among potential signs of uncorrected vision problems are difficulty copying from the blackboard, pulling a book close to the face, frequent blinking or eye rubbing, using a finger or pencil to guide reading, and declines in student performance.

When you see students with these conditions, please make sure that they receive appropriate testing and necessary eyecare and encourage your students to say something when they are having trouble seeing clearly. When students can see well, they have a better chance that they will read well, too.

#### DID YOU KNOW...?

That the US Department of Education announced that it will withdraw nearly 600 pieces of out-of-date guidance in Elementary and Secondary Education, Special Education and Postsecondary Education?

[Read More Here](#)

---

#### THINGS TO NOTE

- [NYS Education Department Announces State Finalists for the 2016-17 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](#)
- [Vast Majority of Schools In Receivership Made Demonstrable Improvement In 2016-17](#)

---

#### MCKINNEY-VENTO DISASTER DISPLACEMENT REPORTING

The New York State Education Department is requesting that Local Educational Agencies (LEA) complete the "McKinney-Vento Disaster Displacement Reporting" survey regarding the number of students displaced by recent disasters who are enrolled in NYS schools. The survey also asks for information about the types of services being offered to such students. The survey results will aid the Department's attempts to secure additional assistance for LEAs serving displaced students. Submissions are due by close of business on Wednesday, November 22, 2017.

The "McKinney-Vento Disaster Displacement Reporting" survey may be accessed using the SED Monitoring and Vendor Performance System available in the NYSED Business Portal at <http://portal.nysed.gov>.

To access the survey:

1. Go to Business Portal <http://portal.nysed.gov>. Click the "Log In" button.
2. Enter your username and password.
3. Click on "SED Monitoring and Vendor Performance System" under My Applications.
4. Select "View Surveys for Title 1 School and Community Services."
5. Find the survey titled "McKinney-Vento Disaster Displacement Reporting."
6. Click on 'view' to begin/continue to input information.

---

#### STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS - RUSH-HENRIETTA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

When [Rush-Henrietta Senior High School](#), in the [Rush-Henrietta Central School District](#), located near Rochester, New York, was recognized as a 2017 Reward School, the acknowledgment provided important validation regarding the success of the strategies being used at the school.

Two strategies that teachers and administrators have embraced at Rush-Henrietta Senior High School in recent years are a commitment to a common curriculum and common assessments. By focusing on these areas, it is possible for teachers to plan for instruction collaboratively, share and compare data, and then openly and honestly assess the effectiveness of their instruction.

In addition, those who work at the school are deeply committed to progress monitoring. This practice provides valuable time for teams of teachers, who lead the same course, to meet on a weekly basis to assess student progress and to provide appropriate interventions designed to support student success.

"The collaboration in our building among the teachers is high," says Beth Patton, principal of the 1,200-student Rush-Henrietta Senior High School - "From my vantage point, their complete commitment to the success of every student is the quality that I most admire."

For more information please contact Beth Patton, Principal of the Rush-Henrietta Senior High School at [bpattton@rhnet.org](mailto:bpattton@rhnet.org).

## Contact Us

*Via Mail:*  
New York State Education  
Department  
Office of Accountability  
55 Hanson Place, Room 400  
Brooklyn, NY 11217

### TEAMS

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

*Via Phone:*  
718.722.2797

*Via E-Mail:*  
[accountInfo@nysed.gov](mailto:accountInfo@nysed.gov)  
[conappta@nysed.gov](mailto:conappta@nysed.gov)  
[essa@nysed.gov](mailto:essa@nysed.gov)  
[selfassessment@nysed.gov](mailto:selfassessment@nysed.gov)

### [Visit us on the Web](#)

[View the  
November 2017 OA  
Newline  
Online](#)

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

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 for the NYS Teacher of the Year program. It is important to acknowledge the positive impact that outstanding teachers have had on their students and school community. Applications are due on Thursday, February 1, 2018.

- If you are nominating a teacher, complete the **Teacher of the Year Nomination Form** at [www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/toty/home.html](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/toty/home.html) and forward the form to the teacher you are nominating.
- If you are self-nominating, complete the **NYS Teacher of the Year Application** at [www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/toty/home.html](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/toty/home.html). Applications must include the signature of your current school principal, school district superintendent, and union president.

Please email [toty@nysed.gov](mailto:toty@nysed.gov), if you have questions or would like further information about the NYS Teacher of the Year program. Thank you for supporting New York State teachers.