

# COVID-19 Emergency Regulations Part II

May 4, 2020



# COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- As a result of the Governor's numerous Executive Orders, the Department adopted emergency regulations at the April 2020 Board of Regents meeting to address the issues resulting from the interruptions caused by the COVID-19 crisis.
- To address additional issues resulting from the continued interruptions caused by the COVID-19 crisis, the Department is proposing further emergency regulatory amendments to provide flexibility to the field and students during this crisis.

# Receivership

- **The Department will not use 2019-20 results in receivership determinations. Specifically:**
  - The Commissioner shall not use 2019-20 school year results to newly identify any schools as struggling, place any schools under independent receivership, or remove the designation of any schools as struggling or persistently struggling;
  - All schools identified as persistently struggling or struggling schools for the 2019-20 school year shall remain so identified for the 2020-21 school year and all schools that operated under a school district superintendent receiver in the 2019-20 school year shall continue to operate under a school district superintendent receiver in the 2020-21 school year; and
  - The Commissioner may, upon a finding of good cause, modify for the 2019-20 through 2021-22 school years any timelines pertaining to notifications, plans, reports, or implementation of activities, except for any timelines prescribed by law.

# Curriculum and Instruction

- **Earning units of credit through coursework.**

The Department proposes to provide that a unit of credit may be earned where a student has not completed a unit of study due to the COVID-19 crisis but has otherwise achieved the standards assessed in the provided coursework.

# Curriculum and Instruction Continued

- **Cancelation of Regents Exams.**

The June 2020 and August 2020 Regent examinations have been canceled.

- **Exempt students from State assessments.**

The Department proposes to provide an exemption to the Regents examination, pathway assessment, alternative assessment, technical assessment, and locally developed test requirements during the COVID-19 crisis so that students are still able to meet their diploma requirements.

# Curriculum and Instruction Continued

- **Earning NYS Career development and occupational studies commencement credential.**

The Department proposes to exempt students from the requirements for the career development and occupational studies commencement credential (“CDOS”) provided that the student is otherwise eligible to exit from high school and has otherwise demonstrated knowledge and skills relating to the CDOS learning standards.

# Curriculum and Instruction Continued

- **Allow for flexibility in general comprehensive examination requirements for a high school equivalency diploma.**

The Department proposes to exempt candidates from the sub-tests of the general comprehensive examination requirements for a high school equivalency diploma where:

- Such candidate has been exempted from or passed the corresponding Regents examination or other approved examination; or
- Such candidate is enrolled in either an AHSEP program or an adult education program during the COVID-19 crisis when the general comprehensive exam is not available; and
  - Has previously taken and passed a combination of at least 3 Regents exams and/or sub-tests of any general comprehensive examination; and
  - For the remaining 2 sub-tests, the student achieves a passing grade in the corresponding approved high school equivalency classes with standards based curriculum and applicable assessments

# Alternative High School Equivalency Program

- **Extension of AHSEP application deadline**

The Department proposes to provide an extension to the June 30<sup>th</sup> application deadline for alternative high school equivalency preparation programs to be operated during the 2020-2021 school year.

# Higher Education

- **Certification through the Individual Evaluation Pathway**
  - The Department proposes to allow any undergraduate or graduate level course completed during the Spring, Summer, or Fall 2020 terms with a passing grade, or its equivalent, to count toward the content course or pedagogical core semester hour requirements for certification through the Individual Evaluation pathway.
  - The passing grade, or its equivalent, must be in accordance with the pass/fail grading policy or its equivalent at the institution of higher education (e.g., credit/no credit, pass/fail, satisfactory/unsatisfactory policy).

# Higher Education Continued

- **Extend the expiration date of the Initial certificate, Initial Reissuance, Provisional certificate, and Provisional Renewal**

The Department proposes to extend the expiration date of the Initial certificate, Initial Reissuance, Provisional certificate, and Provisional Renewal from August 31, 2020 to January 31, 2021 to provide candidates with the time needed to work in schools and complete the requirements for the Professional or Permanent certificate.

- **Extend the expiration date of the Conditional Initial certificate**
- The Department proposes to extend the expiration date of the Conditional Initial certificate from August 31, 2020 to August 31, 2021 to provide candidates with the time needed to complete the edTPA, which requires working with students. An additional year gives candidates the time to establish a relationship with students, teach lessons and assess student learning, and prepare the edTPA submission once classroom routines are more consistent after the COVID-19 crisis.

# Higher Education Continued

- **Create an Emergency COVID-19 certificate.**
  - The Department proposes to create an Emergency COVID-19 certificate for candidates seeking certain certificates and extensions because there is limited test center availability and schools have been closed pursuant to Executive Order(s) of the Governor due to the COVID-19 crisis. This certificate would be valid for one year and could be renewed one time for an additional year with letter(s) of recommendation from school, district, and/or BOCES administrators.
  - To earn the Emergency COVID-19 certificate candidates must, on or before September 1, 2020:
    - Apply for the certificate or extension;
    - Apply for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate, in the same certificate title as the certificate or extension applied for; and
    - Complete all requirements for the certificate or extension applied for, other than the examination requirement(s).

# Higher Education Continued

- **Exempt school district leader (SDL) and school district business leader (SDBL) candidates from taking and passing the SDL and SDBL assessment, respectively, for program completion and institutional recommendation for Professional certification, however, candidates would need to take and pass these assessments for Professional certification.**
  - The Department proposes to exempt SDL and SDBL candidates from taking and passing the SDL and SDBL assessment, respectively, for program completion and for the institutional recommendation for the Professional certificate, if they completed all program requirements except the assessment requirement during the Fall 2019, Winter 2020, Spring, 2020, or Summer 2020 terms.
  - The exemption enables these candidates to complete their program while there is limited test center availability due to the COVID-19 crisis and to receive institutional recommendation for Professional certification, which would be needed to pursue the proposed Emergency COVID-19 certificate.
  - The candidates would need to take and pass the SDL and SDBL assessment to earn certification.

# Higher Education Continued

- **Exempt candidates admitted to Transitional D programs leading to SDL certification from taking and passing the SDL assessment for institutional recommendation for Transitional D certification, however, candidates would need to take and pass such assessment to earn Transitional D certification.**
  - The Department proposes to exempt candidates admitted to Transitional D programs leading to SDL certification from taking and passing the SDL assessment for the institutional recommendation for the Transitional D certificate, if they completed all requirements for admitted candidates except the assessment requirement on or before September 1, 2020.
  - The exemption enables Transitional D candidates to receive institutional recommendation for Transitional D certification while there is limited test center availability due to the COVID-19 crisis, which would be needed to pursue the proposed Emergency COVID-19 certificate.
  - The candidates would need to take and pass the SDL assessment to earn Transitional D certification.

# Professions

- **Permit one additional 24-month renewal of limited permits in medicine.**  
Current regulations provide that limited permits in medicine shall not be renewed for more than one 24 month period. The Department proposes to permit, at the Department's discretion, the renewal of limited permits in medicine for one additional 24 month period during the COVID-19 crisis.
- **Waive the in-person CPR course requirement for Dentists and Dental Hygienists.**  
Current regulations require dentists and dental hygienists to become certified in CPR through an in-person course. The Department proposes to accept alternative means to be used by dentists and dental hygienists to obtain and/or maintain the required CPR certification for their respective professional practice during the COVID-19 crisis.

# Early Learning

- **Waive the annual monitoring and tracking of pre-K program effectiveness**

The Department proposes to waive the requirement that school districts must annually monitor and track prekindergarten program effectiveness for the 2019-2020 school year.

- **Waive the annual Pre-K report**

The Department also proposes to waive the annual report of the percentage of prekindergarten children making significant gains for the 2019-2020 school year.



Questions?