



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

Graduation Measures in New York State

Board of Regents
September 9, 2019



Introduction and Background

Excerpts from Chancellor Rosa's column:

“The rigid system is not working for everyone, and too many students - particularly our most vulnerable students - are leaving high school without a diploma. New York and other states are grappling with graduation rates that are improving too slowly, if at all, as well as achievement gaps that reflect pernicious and pervasive opportunity gaps.”

The Blue- Ribbon Commission:

Will consider whether State exit exams, as a sole measure, improve student achievement, graduation rates, and college readiness; and whether adding other measures of achievement could better serve New York's diverse student population as indicators of what they know and if they are career and college ready. Could those additional measures of achievement include things like capstone projects, alternative assessments, or engagement in civic and community activities?

- **Goal: Reaffirm what a New York State high school diploma means and what it ought to signify**

Revisiting the Issues

- Access to multiple graduation measures for all students
- Real-world skills necessary for post-secondary success
- New York State exit exam criteria
- De-facto tracking
- Consistency of rigor for student learning
- Preparing all students to successfully pursue college, careers, and opportunities for community engagement and citizenship
- Barriers to equity

Proposed Blue Ribbon Commission's Work

Blue Ribbon Commission:

The purpose of the Commission is to review research, practice and policy and to gather input from across the state, to help inform recommendations to:

- reconsider current diploma requirements;
- ensure all students have access to multiple graduation measures; and
- ensure a transition plan timeline allows time to prepare for and implement any changes.

The Commission will include representatives from the Big 5, NYSCOSS, NYSSBA, NYSUT, PTA, SAANYS, UFT, District Superintendents, and others.

Proposed Blue Ribbon Commission's Work - continued

Regents-BOCES District Superintendents-SED Regional Workgroups in Each Judicial District:

- The purpose of the Regional Workgroups is to gather and provide input into the Commission's review of research, practices and policies from constituents across the state to help inform the Commission's work to create recommendations.
- In each judicial district, a Regional Workgroup will be established to include the Regent, BOCES District Superintendents, the Big 5 City School Districts and a representative from SED to gather feedback from constituents and stakeholders, which can be inclusive of: student voices; advocacy groups; research agencies; workforce representatives; and others to be identified; in that region.

Updated Draft Time Line

- **November 2019 – January 2020:** Regents and District Superintendents gather feedback from across the state, including meetings held in Regent Judicial Districts.
- **February 2020:** Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) and draft meeting schedule.
- **March 2020:** Commission’s first meeting – the BRC convenes and defines the scope of its work.
- **April 2020:** Blue Ribbon Commission second meeting – The BRC identifies priority areas, “Big Questions” and a framework for moving forward. Draw from the BRC and Workgroups members to assign to sub-groups for priority areas.
- **May 2020 – September 2020:** Sub-groups meet.
- **October 2020 – November 2020:** Sub-groups develop proposed recommendations.
- **Winter 2021:** Sub-groups advance recommendations to the BRC.
- **Spring 2021 – Summer 2021:** The BRC finalizes recommendations and a report is prepared.
- **Fall 2021:** The Blue Ribbon Commission’s final report is presented to the Board of Regents for consideration.

Immediate Next Steps

- Work with Regents and District Superintendents to establish regional workgroups and plan fall meetings.
- Define the mission of the Blue Ribbon Commission.
- Review research and practices.
 - Consider: What data do we need to collect, review, analyze, that will/can inform our decisions?