



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY,
NY 12234

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: James A. Kadamus 

COMMITTEE: Elementary, Middle, Secondary and Continuing Education

TITLE OF ITEM: Deputy Commissioner's Report

DATE OF SUBMISSION: February 24, 2003

PROPOSED HANDLING: Discussion

RATIONALE FOR ITEM: Current Activities in the Office of Elementary, Middle,
Secondary, and Continuing Education

STRATEGIC GOAL: Goals 1 and 2

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY:

Among the topics highlighted in this report are:

- Social Studies Component Retesting
- Mathematics Institute
- Eighth Annual Interagency Early Childhood Conference – "Strengthening Partnerships and Collaborations to Develop Life Long Learners"
- Skills Achievement Profile for IEP Diploma Students
- Emerging Worker Sub-Committee Pilots First Regional Business Forum in the Mid-Hudson Valley
- *Music: A Resource Guide for Standards-Based Instruction*
- Driver and Traffic Safety Education Guidelines

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT
ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, SECONDARY AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Social Studies Component Retesting

The Department has postponed implementation of the social studies component-retesting program for at least one year. We had anticipated providing component retests in Global History and Geography and United States History and Government beginning in May 2003, but serious cost and production constraints have made that impossible. The Department will provide component retests for these two Regents examinations as soon as circumstances permit. Regional turnkey scorer training will be conducted prior to the first administration of the social studies component retests.

Mathematics Institute

On January 8, 2003, the Office of New York City School and Community Services, in collaboration with the New York City Department of Education and the New York Technical Assistance Center (NYTAC) at New York University, conducted a Mathematics Institute for elementary, middle, intermediate, and junior high school teachers, staff developers, assistant principals, and instructional leaders from Schools Under Registration Review and other low-performing schools. The elementary session focused on the State Learning Standard Key Ideas on Models/Multiple Representation and Measurement. The middle school session emphasized Key Ideas of Measurement and Geometry. The presenter focused on the use of manipulatives to introduce concepts, problem solving strategies to develop concepts, writing to check for understanding and classroom assessment. Each participant received a packet of supportive mathematics resources.

Eighth Annual Interagency Early Childhood Conference – "Strengthening Partnerships and Collaborations to Develop Life Long Learners"

The Eighth Annual Interagency Early Childhood Conference was held on January 27, 2003 in New York City. This conference was sponsored by the Office of New York City School and Community Services in partnership with the New York City Department of Education; the Administration for Children's Services/Division of Child Care and Head Start; New York City Council of Supervisors and Administrators; the United Federation of Teachers; Bank Street College; Non-Public Early Childhood Programs; and the New York City VESID Office of Special Education Quality Assurance. Over 1,500 representatives from schools, early childhood centers, Head Start and agency groups which service young children and families attended this year's conference.

Associate Commissioner Shelia Evans-Tranumn opened the conference and emphasized the Department's commitment to providing and improving services to all

children and families in New York State. Vice Chancellor Adelaide L. Sanford and Regent Geraldine D. Chapey echoed these sentiments and encouraged the audience to be bold in their advocacy for these young children. The keynote address was delivered by Augusta Souza Kappner, President of Bank Street College, in New York City. Other distinguished guests included Mary Markowitz, President, Borough of Brooklyn; William C. Bell, Commissioner, Administration for Children's Services/Division of Child Care and Head Start; Jill Levy, President, New York City Council of Supervisors and Administrators; and Michelle Bodden, Vice President, Elementary Schools, United Federation of Teachers.

In addition to the more than 50 workshops offered, two special features of the conference included the morning Early Childhood Policy Forum and the afternoon Symposium. Linda M. Espinosa, Associate Professor of the Graduate School of Education and Co-Director of the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers, led the discussion on Early Education: Research Implications for Policy, Practice and Programs. The Symposium, "Creating Seamless Collaborations: Together We Can," included the following presenters:

Chairperson: Shelia Evans-Tranumn, Associate Commissioner
New York State Education Department

Rhonda Carlos-Smith, Associate Executive Director
Child Care, Inc.

Cindy Gallagher, Coordinator
Office of Early Education and Reading Initiatives, SED

Mary Ann Higgins, Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families

Alana Sweeny, Executive Director
New York State Council on Children and Families

Harvey I. Newman, Deputy Commissioner
Administration for Children Services/Division of Child Care and Head Start

Suzanne Zafonte Sennett, Director
Bureau of Early Childhood Services
New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Eleanor Greig-Ukoli, Director
Office of Early Childhood Education
New York City Department of Education

Another annual conference feature was the presentation of Outstanding Early Childhood Program awards. There were six recipients this year. Vendor exhibits provided an opportunity for participants to examine the latest materials and resources available for early childhood programs.

Skills Achievement Profile for IEP Diploma Students

EMSC staff, in collaboration with VESID, is proceeding with a pilot project on the optional use of a model career and technical skills achievement profile for students with disabilities who are pursuing an IEP diploma. Project activities include the alignment of career-related work skills with the New York State Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Learning Standards and documentation of skill achievement by students. Mechanics of the pilot project will be presented and discussed at the November statewide meeting of Transition Coordination Site Coordinators. Pilot project operation began at 16 sites throughout New York State in January and will conclude in June 2003. A career and technical skills achievement profile for students with disabilities pursuing an IEP diploma will be available for use by all schools in fall 2003.

Emerging Worker Sub-Committee Pilots First Regional Business Forum in the Mid-Hudson Valley

Commissioner Richard P. Mills co-chairs the Emerging Worker Sub-Committee of the New York State Workforce Investment Board. The Sub-Committee's mission is "to ensure that all New York's youth, under age 21 are better prepared for employment by:

- Enabling them to meet New York State's learning standards;
- Providing them with the work skills, life skills and supports necessary to succeed in New York's job market; and
- Exposing them to a greater array of potential career opportunities, including current demand occupations."

On November 18, 2002, Commissioner Mills, Commissioner Linda Angello (New York State Department of Labor), and Commissioner John Johnson (New York State Office of Children and Family Services) joined business leaders and over 200 participants from seven local workforce investment areas in a Mid-Hudson Valley regional business forum. The purpose of the forum was to identify ways that local workforce investment areas could expand business involvement in comprehensive programs that prepare youth for jobs and careers in New York State. The forum will begin an intensive strategic planning process with the seven local teams to further refine strategies, expand partnerships, and set actions to better serve youth, in a manner consistent with employer expectations. The forum and the planning process for each team provide an opportunity to expand and deepen partnerships among

workforce, education, business, and community organizations. If this pilot is successful, similar forums will be held across the State to shape programming in each of 33 local workforce investment areas.

Music: A Resource Guide for Standards-Based Instruction

Music: A Resource Guide for Standards-Based Instruction was collaboratively developed by the Department and the New York State School Music Association to assist educators in implementing the State's learning standards for the arts in music. The publication contains instructional ideas, suggested assessments, references and resources linked to the music performance indicators in the standards. Copies of the resource guide are available on our web site.

Driver and Traffic Safety Education Guidelines

Driver and Traffic Safety Education Guidelines have been disseminated to all public and nonpublic schools that conduct a driver and traffic safety education program. These guidelines update information provided in 1992 and describe the requirements leading to a student Certificate of Completion (MV-285). This publication will ensure statewide consistency of driver and traffic safety education programs and includes important information related to the operation of a driver education program, the approval process for out-of-state driver education courses, and the procedures for participation of commercial driving schools in driver education programs.