



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

Graduation Measures in New York State

**Board of Regents
November 4, 2019**



Blue Ribbon Commission

Goal:

To undertake a thoughtful and inclusive process to reaffirm what a New York State high school diploma means and what it ought to signify to ensure educational excellence and equity for all New York State children.

Purpose:

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.

Phases of Work

Phase I: Information Gathering

Regional Workgroups

- Regent(s)
- DS/Big 5
- SED

Regional and Stakeholder Feedback on Guiding Questions

Review of Research and Practices in Other States



Phase II: Blue Ribbon Commission

Blue Ribbon Commission Meets and Develops Recommendations



Phase III: Regents Discussion

Board of Regents Presentation and Policy Discussion

Updated Draft Timeline

Phase I: Information Gathering

- **November 2019 to March 2020:**
 - Literature review of research and practices in other states. Report to the Board in Feb. 2020
 - Regional workgroups hold meetings beginning in January to gather feedback from across the state.
- **April 2020:** Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) and draft meeting schedule.
- **Spring 2020:** Compile Regional Meeting feedback.

Phase II: Blue Ribbon Commission

- **May 2020:** Commission's first meeting – the BRC convenes and defines the scope of its work.
- **June 2020:** Blue Ribbon Commission second meeting to identify priority areas and a framework for moving forward. Establish sub-groups for priority areas.
- **July 2020 – November 2020:** Sub-groups meet.
- **December 2020 – February 2021:** Sub-groups develop proposed recommendations.
- **Spring 2021:** Sub-groups advance recommendations to the BRC.
- **Summer 2021:** The BRC finalizes recommendations and a report is prepared.

Phase III: Regents Discussion

- **Fall 2021:** The Blue Ribbon Commission's final report is presented to the Board of Regents for consideration.

Phase I: Information Gathering

Regional Workgroups

Phase I:
Information
Gathering

Regional
Workgroups

Review of
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Regional Workgroups

- Led by Board of Regents Member
- Supported by BOCES District Superintendent(s) and Big Five district staff
- Coordinated by SED internal team

Phase I: Information Gathering

Regional Meetings & Feedback

Regional Meetings in Each Regent Judicial District:

- At least one meeting in each Judicial District to be held January to March 2020
- Outreach to a vast array of regional stakeholders and organizations to ensure every region is part of the conversation
- Format of meetings will provide for discussions to bring ideas forward in a concise, consistent and thoughtful way
- Ideas and information will be captured in each regional area

Public Comment Email Box:

- Establish public comment email box for those who wish to contribute thoughts and ideas but cannot make a meeting

GradMeasures@nysed.gov

Phase I: Information Gathering

Regional Workgroups – Meeting Format

Overview

- Opening video from the Chancellor
- Local Regent provides remarks
- District superintendent or Big 5 representative delivers short PPT to provide overview on current graduation requirements and goal of review of graduation measures

Feedback from Attendees

- Attendees break out into small groups to discuss each guiding question
- Each group will provide feedback on each guiding question via laptop to NYSED and share a main point with entire group

Phase I: Information Gathering

Regional Meeting Outreach

Regents Identified Organizations & Individuals

- List of 49 organizations Regents provided to SED
- Community leaders
- Community organizations

Regional Representation of

- CSA
- ESSAA
- NAACP
- NYSASBO
- NYSCOSS
- NYSFSA
- NYSPTA
- NYSSBA
- NYSUT
- SAANYS
- UFT
- Urban League

Workforce

- BCNYS
- Economic development representatives
- NYATEP
- Dept. of Labor

Higher Education

- SUNY/CUNY
- CiCU
- Assoc. of Proprietary Colleges
- Schools of Education

Student Representatives

- MBK Fellows
- Office of Special Education Youth Advisory Panel
- DSs and Big 5 to invite students
- Regent Mead's Student Group

Special Populations

- 11 organizations identified by OSE
- 41 organizations identified by OBEWL
- Homeless and incarcerated youth

DS Identified Orgs Big 5 School Districts

- NYCDOE Parent Office

Research Agencies

- Education Trust
- High Achievement NY
- Rockefeller Institute
- The Metropolitan Center
- The Research Alliance of NYC Schools

Phase I: Information Gathering

Regional Meeting Publicity

NEW: Graduation Measures Listserv

- All individuals & organizations on previous slide
- Sign up via NYSED.gov

Graduation Measures Webpage

All information on the effort including Regents presentations, news releases, meeting schedule, Chancellor's columns, etc.

Social Media

- Twitter
- Facebook
- LinkedIn

News Releases

Direct Outreach Via Listservs

- News & Notes
- Parent Newsletter
- MBK
- Program areas
- **NEW:** Graduation Measures

Op-Ed Opportunities:

- On Board
- Additional publications

Phase I: Information Gathering

Graduation Measures Webpage

NYSED ▾ Education Areas ▾ Standards & Curriculum ▾ Assessments ▾ Certification & Licensing ▾ School Business ▾ Data & Reporting ▾

Graduation Measures

The Board of Regents and State Education Department have undertaken a thoughtful and inclusive review of the State high school graduation measures. Our ultimate goal is to reaffirm what it means to obtain a diploma in New York State and what that diploma should signify to ensure educational excellence and equity for all students in New York State.

[Board of Regents Presentations](#)



[Chancellor's On Board Columns](#)



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Phase I: Information Gathering

Regional Workgroups

Phase I:
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Regional
Workgroups

Review of
Research and
Practices in
Other States

Regional and
Stakeholder
Feedback on
Guiding Questions

Review of Research and Practices in Other States

- Literature review of current research and policy on graduation measures
- Compilation of practices in other states and international models

Phase I: Information Gathering

Review of Research & Practices in Other States

- **Partnering with Achieve on Phase I: Information Gathering** activities to compile research, information and regional meeting feedback to present to the Board of Regents.
- For the research component, Achieve will:
 - **Conduct a literature review** of the research on graduation requirements and the practices in other states as well as international models. This will include, but not be limited to, research conducted by the Metropolitan Center at NYU and the Research Alliance of NYC schools;
 - **Focus on innovative models** and how states aim to improve college and career readiness through these policies and practices; and
 - **Provide a report and presentation to the Board** in Feb. 2020.

Phase I: Information Gathering

Regional Workgroups

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Regional & Stakeholder Feedback on Guiding Questions

- Compile feedback from regional meetings and received in writing

Phase I: Information Gathering

Guiding Questions

1. What do we want our children to know and to be able to do before they graduate?
2. How do we want them to demonstrate such knowledge and skills?
3. To what degree does requiring passage of Regents exams improve student achievement, graduation rates, college and career readiness, and civic engagement?
4. What other measures of achievement (e.g., capstone projects, alternative assessments or engagement in civic and community activities) could serve as indicators of high school completion?
5. How can measures of achievement accurately reflect the skills and knowledge of our special populations, such as students with disabilities and English language learners?

Phase I: Information Gathering

Regional Meeting Feedback

- **Partnering with Achieve on Phase I: Information Gathering** activities to compile research, information and regional meeting feedback to present to the Board of Regents.
- For the regional meeting feedback, Achieve will:
 - **Synthesize and compile feedback** received at each regional meeting as well as the feedback received in writing via email or letter.
 - **Provide a written report to NYSED and the Board of Regents.** This will be presented to the Board in Spring 2020.

Phase I: Information Gathering

Bill & Melinda Gates Grant Support

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide \$100,000 grant to:

- Support Achieve's Phase I work to compile research, information and regional meeting feedback and provide a report and presentation to NYSED and the Board; and
- Hire a part-time project manager to support this initiative

Questions

#NYSGradMeasures