

Commissioner's Update

New York State Education Department
Monday, October 26, 2015

- Since our last meeting I've continued my statewide tour to talk with students, teachers, school board members, superintendents, principals, Deans and staff from higher education institutes, business officials, BOCES, from small cities to our large; from rural to urban.
- A wide range of discussion but Common Core Standards, Testing and Evaluations/APPR are the dominant topics.

What's next: Common Core Learning Standards

- We launched the NYS P-12 Common Core Learning Standards survey *AIMHighNY* on Wednesday, October 21 and have received over 4,500 unique visitors.
- We will be reviewing the survey data with various groups representing teachers, parents, students, Higher Education Institutes, school board members, educational administrators and business and workforce representatives. Recommended next steps will be presented to the Board.
- Recommendations which will also be shared with the Governor's Task Force.
- Participated in the Governor's first Common Core Task Force meeting (executive session). Discussed the importance of community engagement.

What's next: NYS Assessments

- SED has contracted with a new vendor.
- Work is underway to significantly increase educator participation to ensure the items/passages are:
 1. grade level appropriate;
 2. presented at a readability level that is grade appropriate;
 3. within grade-level expectations;
 4. fair and appropriately measure the learning standards approved by the Board of Regents for such grades and subjects; and
 5. of a correct length to ensure that adequate and appropriate time is given to students for the administration of such assessments.
- **Educator Passage Review** (*New opportunity for educator participation*)
- **Internal Item Review** (*New opportunity for educator participation*)
- **Educator Item Review**
- **Rangefinding**
- **Forms Construction** (*New opportunity for educator participation*)
- **Final Eyes**

Changes for the Spring 2016 3-8 Assessments

- The Spring 2016 Grade 3-8 tests will contain fewer test questions in ELA and math.
- Educators will have a role in selecting passages and items as well as in constructing the forms.
- Test data was released earlier than in previous years.
- In addition, 50 percent of the questions from the 2015 test were released. Next year, there will be as full a release as possible and as early as possible.
- Department has developed a tool kit to support the communication of the value and importance of annual testing to schools and communities. This resource will be shared with superintendents, school board members and principals.
- Review the way teachers access data to make certain it is teacher friendly and can be used in the most productive manner as well as review how parents receive data to make certain that it accurately portrays their child's performance.

Evaluation

- Review of the growth model is underway.
- Appeals process for growth score advanced by the Board is being utilized by teachers.
- Nearly 200 Hardship Waivers approved related to 3012-d APPR plans (with close to 90 pending). Hardship Waivers for 3012-d evaluation plan deadline is October 30.
- Have approved over 200 assessments to be used with SLOs.
- Waivers for independent observers for rural schools

Thank you.