



TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: William P. Murphy *William Murphy*

SUBJECT: Proposed Timeline and Activities for the Statewide Plan for Higher Education, 2023-2031

DATE: May 27, 2021

AUTHORIZATION(S): *William Murphy*

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

The Department will present the Higher Education Committee with a proposed timeline and activities for the Statewide Plan for Higher Education, 2023-2031.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For information.

Proposed Handling

This item is submitted to the Higher Education Committee for discussion at the June 2021 Board of Regents meeting.

Procedural History

Not applicable.

Background Information

Education Law §237 requires that the Board of Regents submit a plan for the development of higher education in the State, or a "Statewide Plan," to the Governor and legislature for Governor approval. The previous Statewide Plan spanned eight years from 2012-2020. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic coincided with the last year of the plan.

Now that we are emerging from the pandemic, the Department is proposing a timeline and activities for developing the next Statewide Plan. The Statewide Plan will

include information from the master plans submitted to the Department from the four higher education sectors (SUNY, CUNY, independent colleges and universities and proprietary).

Overview of the Statewide Planning Process

Pursuant to Education Law §237(1), master planning for higher education in New York State should:

- Define and differentiate the missions and objectives of higher education and institutions of higher education.
- Identify the needs, problems, societal conditions and interest of the citizens of the State of New York to which programs of higher education may most appropriately be addressed.
- Develop programs to meet the needs, solve the problems, and respond to the public's needs by setting goals, describing the time required to meet those goals, identifying the resources needed to achieve the goals, and establishing priorities.
- Include sufficient detail to allow planners, stakeholders, and citizens themselves to evaluate the needs, objectives, program proposals, priorities, costs and results of higher education.
- Optimize the use of resources and evaluate program effectiveness.

An Advisory Council on Higher Education will be convened to advise the Department and Board of Regents throughout the statewide planning process. The Council will include the SUNY Chancellor, CUNY Chancellor, and a representative from the Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU) per Education Law §237(7). Following past practice, the Department plans to invite each invitee and a representative from the Association of Proprietary Colleges to identify up to four members to join them on the Advisory Council.

Each sector will develop a master plan that will address the following foundational topics based on Education Law §§354(1) and 6206(3)(a):

- Plans for new curricula;
- Plans for new facilities;
- Plans for changes in student admission policies;
- Projected student enrollment;
- A description of the sector's relationship to other colleges and universities, public, independent and proprietary, within the State; and
- Projection standards and overall expenditure projections of capital and operating costs (for informational purposes only).

These master plans will help form the basis of the Statewide Plan.

Draft Topics in the Statewide Plan

In past Statewide Plans, the Board of Regents included a set of topics that sectors would address in their master plans. After reviewing the topics from past plans, reflecting on the Regents' and Department's priorities, and considering concerns from the field, the Department offers the following five topics as a starting point for further thought and discussion:

- Engaging in collaborative, mutually beneficial partnerships with the P-12 community to strengthen the P-20 system.
- Ensuring equity, diversity, and inclusion in the P-20 system, including students in the educator and licensed professional career tracks.
- Improving accessibility, student support services, and academic outcomes.
- Preparing students for the current and future needs of communities, society, and the workforce.
- Transforming operations, structures, and programs in response to the evolving higher education landscape, post-pandemic realities, and student demographics.

Proposed Timeline and Next Steps

A detailed timeline of the statewide planning process is attached. The timeline may be adjusted during the process, depending upon, for example, the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on institutions of higher education and the Department.

In the first phase of the process, the Department will work with the Board of Regents, Advisory Council, and stakeholders on developing the set of topics. The Department will present draft topics again to the Board of Regents in fall 2021 based on feedback from the field.

The list of topics will be presented to the Board of Regents for final approval in winter 2022. Immediately after the meeting in which it is approved, the Department will send a bulletin to each sector announcing the statewide planning process, listing the topics to be addressed in their sector master plans, and providing the deadline for submission of the plans to the Department. The sector master plans would be due to the Department on January 1, 2023, giving sectors approximately one year to develop their plans.

While the sectors develop their plans, the Department will begin the next phase of the statewide planning process by collecting and analyzing data about institutions of higher education and their students. The Department will also begin drafting sections of the Statewide Plan, drafts of which will be presented to the Board of Regents at meetings in 2022 for feedback and approval. The Advisory Council will also provide feedback on the draft sections.

After the Department receives the sector master plans, the Department will incorporate the master plans into a draft Statewide Plan. The draft Statewide Plan will be presented to the Board of Regents in spring 2023 for feedback. The Advisory Council will also provide feedback on the draft plan. In addition, the Department will collect feedback on the draft plan at public hearings as required by Education Law §237(4). The final Statewide Plan will then be presented to the Board of Regents for approval by summer 2023.

Related Regents Items

October 2012: [Statewide Plan for Higher Education](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/October2012/1012hea1.pdf)
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/October2012/1012hea1.pdf>)

Recommendation

Not applicable.

Timetable for Implementation

Not applicable.

Proposed Statewide Plan Timeline

Date	Activity
June 2021	<p>Present an overview of the statewide planning process to the Board of Regents, including the timeline and draft topics that sectors would address in their master plans.</p> <p>Contact sector leaders about identifying four representatives from their sector to serve on the Commissioner’s Advisory Council on Higher Education. The Advisory Council will provide feedback to the Department throughout the statewide planning process.</p>
Fall 2021	<p>Hold Advisory Council meetings to discuss the draft topics. Collect stakeholder input on the draft topics. At a Board of Regents meeting, present feedback from the Advisory Council and stakeholders and collect feedback from the Board of Regents on the draft topics.</p>
Winter 2022	<p>Present the bulletin that would be sent to the sectors with the final set of topics at a Board of Regents meeting. Send the bulletin to the sectors with the master plan topics and deadline for submitting their plans to the Department (January 1, 2023).</p>
Spring 2022	<p>Present draft sections of the Statewide Plan at a Board of Regents meeting. Hold Advisory Council meetings to discuss draft sections of the Statewide Plan.</p>
Fall 2022	<p>Present draft sections of the Statewide Plan at a Board of Regents meeting.</p>
January 1, 2023	<p>Deadline for the sector master plans.</p>
Spring 2023	<p>Present the draft Statewide Plan, with the sector master plan information, at a Board of Regents meeting. Hold Advisory Council meetings and public hearings on the draft Statewide Plan.</p>
Summer 2023	<p>Present the final Statewide Plan to the Board of Regents for approval. Submit the statewide plan to the Governor and legislature.</p>