



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

Graduation Measures in New York State

Board of Regents
October 7, 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**

Phase I: Information Gathering

Regional Workgroups

Phase I:
Information
Gathering

Regional
Workgroups

Regional and
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Feedback on
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Review of
Research and
Practices in
Other States

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

Internal SED Team

SED team to help in this effort that reflects the vast expertise and breadth of SED.

Internal SED Team

- P12
- ACCES
- Accountability
- Bilingual and World Languages
- Communications
- Counsel
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Government Relations
- Higher Education
- Professions
- PTECH
- Regents Office
- Special Education
- Student Support Services

Phase I: Information Gathering

Regional Meetings & Feedback

Regional Meetings in Each Regent Judicial District:

- At least one meeting in each Judicial District
- 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 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

Student Representatives

- MBK Fellows
- Office of Special Education Youth Advisory Panel

Special Populations

- 11 organizations identified by OSE
- 41 organizations identified by OBEWL

DS Identified Orgs Big 5 School Districts

Research Agencies

- Education Trust
- High Achievement NY
- Rockefeller Institute

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:

- OnBoard
- Additional publications

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 and college readiness?
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

Review of Research & Practices in Other States

- Two major components of the information gathering phase are:
 - Review of Current Research
 - Compilation of practices in other states
- SED is seeking a partner to undertake these two components of the information gathering phase.

Draft Timeline

Phase I: Information Gathering

- **November 2019 – January 2020:**
 - Regional workgroups hold meetings and gather feedback from across the state.
 - Review of research and practices in other states.
- **February 2020:**
 - Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) and draft meeting schedule.
 - Compile Regional Meeting feedback and review of research and practices in other states.

Phase II: Blue Ribbon Commission

- **March 2020:** Commission's first meeting – the BRC convenes and defines the scope of its work.
- **April 2020:** Blue Ribbon Commission second meeting to identify priority areas and a framework for moving forward. Establish 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.

Phase III: Regents Discussion

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

Immediate Next Steps

- Regents fill out survey on availability and which area in judicial district is preferred meeting location.
- If needed, a planning call can be held with the Regent, Secretary to the Board, local District Superintendents and Internal SED Team in advance of regional meeting.
- Work with Regents and DSs to determine dates and locations of the meetings, so they can be announced in November.
- Regional workgroups collect the contact information of individuals and organizations the Regents, DSs and Big 5 Districts have identified.
- Based on feedback from Regents on the Guiding Questions, the Internal SED Team will develop the toolkit to host the meetings. The toolkit will be completed by the November Board of Regents meeting.