

New York State



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April Board of Regents Information

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<http://usny.nysed.gov/webcasts.html>

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For a complete listing of the reports and materials for the April Board of Regents meeting, go to: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/April2009/0409monthmat-new.html>

For the Commissioner's Report to the Board of Regents, go to: <http://oms32.nysed.gov/comm/2009/0409commrep.htm>

EMSC Committee:

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/April2009/0409emsccommrep.htm>

Proposed Amendment to Regulations Relating to the Use of Superintendents' Conference Days – The Committee discussed proposed regulations that would allow school districts to use up to two of its superintendents' conference days in each school year for teacher rating of State assessments. The proposed regulations would extend the sunset of this regulation to June 30, 2013.

Draft proposed Policy on “Making-up” Course Credit and Receiving Course Credit for Independent Study – alternative paths to graduation were discussed. Proposed amendments to regulations to provide clarity and specificity on when and how these alternative pathways can be used and by which students. After an in-depth discussion, there was consensus among Committee members that these two issues are very different and when presented to the field, should be presented separately. In order to provide clarity and distinction, information on making up course credit will be disseminated to the field first. This item will include the identification of student populations and schools that would be allowed to participate.

Update on United States Department of Education's Graduation Rate Regulations – Consideration of an Extended-Year Graduation Rate –discussed Federal NCLB regulations promulgated in October 2008 that call for states to set a single graduation rate goal for all students, as well as annual targets for districts and schools. The discussion focused on whether or not the Regents want to request approval from USED to use an extended-year graduation rate which would give credit to schools and districts for students who take five or more years to

graduation and if staff should prepare options for the Regents to consider concerning setting a new graduation rate goal and annual targets. Staff will draft specific options for Regents consideration on these issues.

Research Report on Charter Schools in New York State – The Committee discussed a proposal from the Education Finance Research Consortium (EFRC) presented by Dr. James Wyckoff. A multi-phase report including examining the effectiveness of charter schools in New York State (if the available data support such an examination), a descriptive analysis of charter schools including where charter schools have developed, who attends charter schools, how expenditure patterns compare between charter schools and other public schools, whether charter schools have influenced change in other public schools, etc., as well as a review of existing studies on charter schools in New York and other states.

Grades 3-8 Testing Policy Overview – The Regents continued their policy discussion regarding changes to the scheduling of the Grades 3-8 mathematics and English Language Arts examinations later in the year.

P-16 Policy Activity Follow-up – Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

VESID:

This committee meeting was held on April 29 at the Yonkers Board of Education, One Larkin Center in Yonkers.

Higher Education:

For further details and information, go to:

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/April2009/0409hecommrep.htm>

and

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/April2009/0409HEEMSCcommrep.htm>

Teacher Tenure

An amendment to the Rules of the Board of Regents concerning the accrual of tenure for teachers who are serving in various instructional support services areas and are therefore not employed as classroom teachers at least 40 percent of the time. The proposed amendment also addresses, prospectively, this matter for teachers who are employed in instructional support services capacities in the future, and ensures that they will also accrue seniority in the tenure areas for which they are appropriately certified. The Committee approved the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Board of Regents as proposed.

P-16 Policy Activity Update –an update was provided on issues related to the preparation, recruitment and retention of teachers in urban school districts.

Efficiencies in Teacher Credential Processing – discussed changes in teacher certification processes that would create greater efficiencies in the certification process and produce increased revenue during a time of reduced resources. Proposed amendments include: modifying the individual transcript evaluation process; institution of a \$50 fee for issuance of Internship

certificates; the elimination of burdensome paper requirements and unnecessary requirements for applicants seeking time extensions and the reissuance of an initial certificate; and requiring an applicant who is seeking reissuance of their certification to retake and pass only the applicable Content Specialty Tests if the certification has been expired for more than two years.

Sunset of Supplementary Certificate and Supplementary Bilingual Education Extension – Proposed regulations relating to the elimination of the sunset date for Supplementary Certificates for teachers were discussed. These certificates have proven to be effective in addressing shortages in schools and provide for a transition from areas of oversupply to those of high demand. Also discussed the creation of a new Supplementary Bilingual Education Extension.