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## **February 2009 Board of Regents Information**

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**For a complete listing of the reports and materials for the February Board of Regents meeting, go to:**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/February2009/0209monthmat-new.html>

**For a summary of the committee reports to the Board of Regents, go to:**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/February2009/0209committeereports.htm>

**For the Commissioner's Report to the Board of Regents, go to:**

<http://oms32.nysed.gov/comm/2009/0209commrep.htm>

### **EMSC:**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/February2009/0209emsccommrep.htm>

Critical Improvements to the K-12 Data System – The Regents discussed an update on improvements to the Department's K-12 data system in three areas: 1) leadership and organization (reorganization in EMSC) 2) redesign of data infrastructure (to prevent problems and data errors before they occur) and 3) long term plans to re-engineer the data system. The Department has applied for a three-year \$7.8 million grant from USDOE.

Grades 3-8 Testing Policy Overview – The Regents continued their policy discussion on issues related to the Grades 3-8 test: possible rescheduling of the exams to a different time of year as well as how the tests should be used and what types of questions should be on the tests (all multiple choice questions versus a combination of multiple choice and open-ended questions). The survey was posted on-line on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> and already 5,000 responses have been received

The Committee also discussed the issue of the cancelled January ELA – second part of the exam due to the weather. The Board will pursue two policy directions. The first is to redesign the Comprehensive Examination in English to be a one-part exam from the current 6-hour two part

exam, and second, to explore alternative options for the test administration and release policy so that greater flexibility is provided for student needs and to reduce the expense associated with the release of the questions and answers for each Regents exam. The current policy has not permitted “make-up” administrations when an exam has to be cancelled. Also, immediate solutions will be looked into the problem associated with students who took the first part of the January 2009 Regents English exam.

Economic Stimulus Plan –an overview of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (AARA) was shared.

**VESID:**

For further details and information on all of the below items, go to:

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/February2009/0209vesidcommrep.htm>

Five specific State law/regulation requirements in special education were discussed. Proposal #3 – Special Education Space Planning Requirements and proposal #4 – Parental Consent for July/August Services were accepted. Additional information is requested for further discussion/consideration on proposal # 1 – Minimum Level of Service Requirement for Speech and Language Related Services and proposal #5 – Due Process Statute of Limitations. The Committee did not support proposal #2 – Membership of the CSE and CPSE.

Time did not permit discussion of the item “Designing our Future – New Vocational Rehabilitation Initiatives.” It will be brought back for discussion at a future Regents meeting.

**Higher Education:**

For further details and information, go to:

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/February2009/0209hecommrep.htm>

The recommendations of the State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching on New York State Professional Development Standards were discussed, which included feedback and comments concerning the amount of time teachers spend on professional development and the value of test scoring as a means of professional development. The Committee recommends that the Regents endorse the proposed New York State Professional Development Standards and that Department staff proceed with implementation as appropriate. The Department will disseminate the Professional Development Standards and develop a guidance document to accompany the Standards. In addition, the Department will propose amendments to pertinent sections of Commissioner’s Regulations to add reference to the Professional Development Standards in district professional development and annual professional performance review processes.