

December Board of Regents Information

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To view who the current Board of Regent members are and to see who represents your area, go to: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/members/>

For a complete listing of the reports and materials for the December Board of Regents meeting, go to: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008Meetings/December2008/12-08-agenda.html>

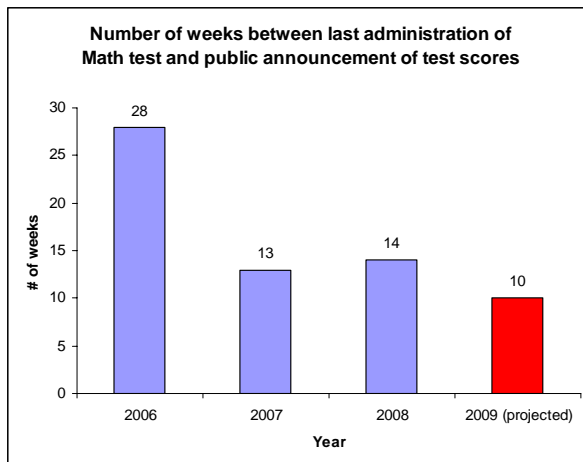
For a summary of the committee reports to the Board of Regents, go to: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008Meetings/December2008/committeereports.html>

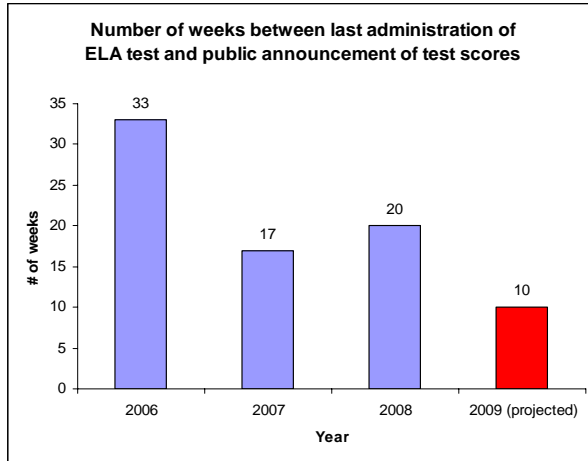
State Aid information: <http://stateaid.nysed.gov/>
(projected 2009-10 school aid estimates)

A proposal was made to mandate training for school claims auditors. The development of a policy is being discussed. There are concerns noted with the costs associated.

EMSC Committee: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008Meetings/December2008/12-08-agenda.html>

Grades 3-8 Testing, Administration and Scoring Timeline – There was ongoing discussion related to the improvement and streamlining of the data system in New York State. Discussion occurred regarding the progress made on the release of the test results over the past few years. **The cycle time system now in place is an improvement of over 2 months from last year and an improvement by as much as 6 months from 2006.** The projected timeline hoped for is a 10 week turnaround time for the 2009-10 school year for both ELA and Math.





The Committee also discussed the testing calendar and possible options for changing the 3-8 testing schedule to either a Fall Administration (**ELA in October and Math in November**) or a Spring Administration (**ELA and Math in June**). Questions were raised concerning the purpose of the state’s testing program as an accountability tool versus a diagnostic tool – and how that should be considered when discussing the timing of the tests. Further discussion will occur in January that to focus on three issues: the purpose of the tests, the types of tests that are given and options for moving the tests to later in the year including advantages and disadvantages related to the possible options and actions that would need to take place to implement those options. *If the Regents decide on the need for a different test schedule, staff will provide a plan to transition to a new schedule with appropriate feedback from the field, an assessment of best practices in other states and any estimated costs.*

ELA/ESL Standards Review Update – Regent Saul Cohen provided an overview of the Regents Standards Review Initiative which included the structure established for ongoing review and revision of the NYS learning standards. Key milestones and working principles were shared for consideration and discussion. A status report was provided on the work of the ELA/ESL Content Panel (review/revision of the NYS learning standards for English Language Arts and the prekindergarten through grade 12 performance indicators). It is anticipated that the Board will revisit this process in March 2009.

VESID: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008Meetings/December2008/12-08-agenda.html#ve>

Deputy Commissioner Cort provided an update to the Committee on the IEP forms and notices timeline, steps being taken to address the recommendations in the Commission on Property Tax Relief Report and implications of the Budget reductions.

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) provided a report on the roles and responsibilities of the SRC. An update was provided on the outcomes of the activities and key initiatives that took place during the past year designed to expand VESID services to individuals with disabilities. Since May 2006, VESID has taken steps to implement the “Designing our Future” plan, initiating several key initiatives and interagency activities that includes MISCC, the Model Transition Program, and CUNY LEADS (Linking Employment, Academics, and Disability Services) initiative.

Regent Tilles and several other Regents expressed concern about the demeaning depiction of Governor Paterson on Saturday Night Live and the impact on the larger community’s understanding of the capabilities of individuals with disabilities. The Regents will send a message to the network expressing the Board’s serious concern.