

Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES
New York State Education Department Curriculum and Assessment Update
February 2009

New York's 2009-10 Differentiated Accountability Pilot Program Approved by USDE

As per Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Senior Deputy Commissioner, NYSED

The United States Department of Education approved New York to participate in the 2009-10 differentiated accountability pilot program. The plan will include the SURR process and the use of distinguished educators to support improvement in those schools that have consistently failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress. The next step will be to develop a differentiated accountability plan which has to be in place by July 2009. More information on the differentiated accountability system will be shared in upcoming weeks.

Regents Examinations

As per Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Senior Deputy Commissioner's Advisory Council, February 6, 2009

SED is examining fundamental questions related to Regents examinations. Issues being discussed include:

- Not releasing Regents exams after the administration of the test to enable the State to create a bank of Regents. The purpose of the bank would be to reduce the costs to develop new Regents exams each year and facilitate the ability of SED to create a second testing day in case of school closings due to inclement weather.
- Redesigning the English Language Arts Regents so that it can be administered in one day rather than two days which is the current practice.

Survey on the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests

As per James Langlois, District Superintendent, Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES Presently, the SED is collecting data regarding the Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Testing Program. SED is genuinely seeking feedback from the field to guide their policy discussion. Results will be provided to the Regents in March to inform their policy decisions regarding the testing system.

Standards Review Process - English Language Arts

As per James Langlois, District Superintendent, Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES SED expects to release the final draft of the revised English Language Arts Standards. The field will have an opportunity to comment on the final draft that will be reviewed by the Regents in March.

The Cohort of 2006 Section in the Regents Diploma Requirements for Mathematics

As per Anne Schiano, Assistant Director, Curriculum, Instruction & Technology, NYSED The section for the cohort of 2006 within the Regents Diploma Requirements for Mathematics chart has been updated. This cohort has been combined with 2007 to reflect the current implementation of the Mathematics Core Curriculum and the administration of the Regents Examinations in Mathematics. In order to fulfill the mathematics portion of a Regents Diploma, students must earn three units of commencement-level mathematics credit and pass one Regents examination in mathematics. For further information, please visit

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/mst/mathregchanges.html>

The chart reflecting this update appears in the February Curriculum Council packet.

Resources

What Does Research Show about the Benefits of Language Learning?

As per Anne Schiano, Assistant Director, Curriculum, Instruction & Technology, NYSED This document will identify some of the major correlation studies that highlight how language learners (second language) benefit from their experiences:

<http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=4524>

Tips for Parents from the National Council of Teachers of English: Helping Your Teenager to Write Better

As per Anne Schiano, Assistant Director, Curriculum, Instruction & Technology, NYSED This "Tips for Parents" sheet from the NCTE includes examples of how parents can help their teenage children write better. Visit:

<http://www.ncte.org/library/NCTEFiles/Resources/Positions/tips-parents.pdf>