

Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES
NYSED Curriculum and Assessment Update: January 2009

Update Regarding Tenure, Seniority for Staff Developers

As per Jim Langlois, District Superintendent, Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES

There was a Commissioner's decision last summer which stated that if a teacher is providing less than 40% direct instruction with students in their certification area, the teacher does not accrue seniority in their certification area, nor is there a current tenure area for positions such as staff developer, teacher leader, coach, etc. NYSED realizes that there are a significant number of teachers in this position working as staff developers, teacher leaders, coaches, etc. (out of classroom positions) due to their high level of skills and qualifications. Therefore, NYSED is now designing a regulation which will do 1 of 3 things:

1. Create a new tenure area for staff developer, teacher leader, etc.
2. Allow teachers to retain their tenure status and continue to accumulate seniority in their classroom certification (what they were before they began their out of classroom assignment).
3. Both of the above

NYSED understands the urgency of this issue due to the difficult economic times and possibility of layoffs and is designing the new regulation now. Jim Langlois expects (no guarantees) to see a proposed regulation before the end of January. However, NYSED hasn't publically stated a deadline by which this will be done.

Reference Sheet for Algebra 2/Trigonometry

As per David Abrams, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Standards, Assessment & Reporting, NYSED

The reference sheet for the Regents Examination in Algebra 2/Trigonometry has been added to the specifications for that examination and posted at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/mathre/testspecs-alger2trig.pdf>. The first administration of the Regents Examination in Algebra 2/Trigonometry will take place in June 2010. You can find additional information on this examination or either of the other two new mathematics assessments--the Regents Examination in Integrated Algebra or the Regents Examination in Geometry--at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/new-math.htm>.

Implementation of Response to Intervention Programs

As per James P. DeLorenzo Statewide Coordinator for Special Education, Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities

As per Jean C. Stevens, Associate Commissioner, Office of Instructional Support and Development

A memo from James DeLorenzo and Jean Stevens urges all NYS districts to implement response to intervention (RtI) programs and summarizes the RtI Regents policy.

The Regents policy:

defines RtI to minimally include:

- appropriate, research-based instruction
- screenings for academic progress
- instruction matched to student need with increasingly intensive levels of targeted intervention
- repeated assessments of student achievement
- application of information to make educational decisions
- written notification to parents

requires:

- each district to establish a plan and policies for implementing school-wide approaches and prereferral interventions
- ensure that staff have the knowledge and skills necessary to implement an RtI program

authorizes:

- authorizes the use of RtI in the State's criteria to determine learning disabilities (LD) and requires, effective July 1, 2012, that all school districts have an RtI program in place as part of the process to determine if a student in grades K-4 is a student with a learning disability in the area of reading

Resources relating to RtI can be found in the memo included in the January Curriculum Council packet and at www.rti4success.org.

Resources

Translated Mathematics Key Terms (Glossaries)

As per Anne Schiano, Assistant Director, Office of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology, NYSED

Mathematics Key Terms (glossaries) have been translated into several languages by the Asian Languages Bilingual/ESL Technical Assistance Center (ALBETAC) which is one of the three language BETACS funded by NYSED. They are available at:

http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/programs/ALBETAC/Resources/translated_glossaries.html

Summer Chinese Language Teachers Institute Source: Hamilton College

As per Anne Schiano, Assistant Director, Office of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology, NYSED

The Associated Colleges in China (ACC), in collaboration with the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Secondary Schools (CLASS), is holding an intensive summer training program for in-service and pre-service K-12 Chinese language teachers whose first language is not Chinese. This 6-week institute (June 27 - August 7) will be held in Beijing and Chengdu at Capital University of Economics and Business (CUEB) and Southwest University for Nationalities (SWUN), respectively. The institute will offer refresher language courses, culture lectures and pedagogical workshops for teachers of Chinese whose native language is NOT Chinese. The institute will be operated by ACC using its course curriculum, language faculty and teaching facilities. More information about the application process is available at: <http://www.hamilton.edu/china>