

Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES
NYSED Curriculum & Assessment Update
May 2009

Teachers Out of Tenure Area

As per James Langlois, PNW District Superintendent, and Johanna Duncan Poitier, Senior Deputy Commissioner, NYSED

All teachers working as staff developers, literacy, math or other academic area coaches, curriculum developers, and in similar instruction support, out of classroom, positions are to accrue tenure/seniority in their original area of certification retroactively to their original date of appointment in that area of certification. If teachers were appointed to, or assigned to, a non-existent tenure area (e.g., staff developer), they will be "grandfathered" back into their area of certification, effective on the date of their original appointment to that area of certification by the district. If such an appointee was never appointed by the district to a tenure area for which they are properly certified, they must be appointed to such an area by July 1, 2009. In addition, the link to the full Board of Regents Material Related to Qualifications for Teachers Appointed to a Position in Instructional Support Services and Tenure and Seniority Rights for Teachers Performing Such Services is provided: [HTML/Word](#). A copy of Johanna Duncan Poitier's memo is in this month's Curriculum Council packet in addition to a chart summarizing the information.

Changes in the Grades 3-8 Testing Calendar

As per Johanna Duncan Poitier, Senior Deputy Commissioner, NYSED

The Regents are reviewing three different options for moving the Grades 3-8 testing to dates later in the school year, and are seeking input from the field regarding the three options. The choices will include:

Option 1: Administer the ELA and Math tests concurrently during the first week of May concurrently during the first week of May and score both sets of examinations during the second week of May.

Option 2: Keep the administration of the Grades 3-8 Mathematics Tests in early March and move the administration of the ELA Tests from January to late March/early April.

Option 3: Retain the current testing calendar.

Please use the following link to complete the survey:

<http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/Grades38TestingSurveyFollowup.cfm>.

Making Up Course Credit and Independent Study

As per James Langlois, PNW District Superintendent, and Johanna Duncan Poitier, Senior Deputy Commissioner, NYSED

NYSED will shortly be seeking feedback from the field on proposed guidelines for making up course credit by means other than repeating the entire course, as well as proposed guidelines for independent study for credit. A memo, "Draft Proposed Policy on 'Making-Up' Course Credit and Receiving Course Credit for Independent Study is included in this month's packet

Graduation Rate

As per James Langlois, PNW District Superintendent, and Johanna Duncan Poitier, Senior Deputy Commissioner, NYSED

The United States Education Department (USED) recently approved an extended-year graduation rate in addition to the existing four-year graduation rate. The Regents are discussing whether to consider using an extended-year graduation rate in New York State which would give schools credit for students who take longer than four years to graduate.

Students Repeating Examinations in Foreign Languages (Performance Tests)

As per Steven Katz, Director of State Assessment Office for Standards, Assessment and Reporting, NYSED

A school must give students who are retaking a State examination in a foreign language the choice whether or not to retake the performance test. Therefore, the performance test scores of all students taking these examinations must be kept on file by the principal. The student may choose not to take the performance test again, instead applying the score earned on the most recent performance test taken to the score earned on the new written test to determine his or her final examination score. If the student elects to take the performance test again, the new performance test score must be used in conjunction with the score earned on the written test to determine the final score. This policy on "Performance Tests" applies to those students who took the oral skills performance test earlier in this school year who were subsequently unable to take the written test component of the Regents Comprehensive Examination in French or Spanish on January 28, 2009 due to weather-related school closing on that day.

Revised ELA Standards K-12

As per NYSED presentation at Middle Level Liaisons Meeting on May 6 & 7, 2009

Each of the areas included in the revised ELA Standards will be organized into two sections: Literacy and Literature. The areas are as follows:

- Reading - Included in previous ELA Standards
- Writing - Included in previous ELA Standards
- Listening - Included in previous ELA Standards
- Speaking - Included in previous ELA Standards
- Viewing - NEW area
- Presenting - NEW area

Next Steps:

- Summer/Fall 2009 - Call for public feedback to review the draft ELA Standards
- Fall 2009 - Board of Regents approves new Standards and Performance Indicators
- 2009 and beyond - Statewide rollout of the ELA Learning Standards and grade-by-grade Performance Indicators, curriculum guidance, and development of State Assessments which measure the new ELA Standards.

Use of Superintendents' Conference Days

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

It is anticipated that the Board of Regents will approve at its June 2009 (effective July 16, 2009) meeting an amendment that would extend for four years, to June 30, 2013, the provision that permits a school district to use up to two of the allowed four superintendents' conference days for teacher rating of State assessments, including grades 3-8 assessments.

Middle-Level Update

As per Martin Fitzgerald, Putnam/Northern Westchester Middle Level Liaison

Martin Fitzgerald, PNW Middle-Level Liaison, provided a brief summary of items discussed at the Middle-Level Liaison meeting in Albany on May 6th and 7th. Click on the following link to access the information discussed and presentations made at this meeting:

<http://nysmsa.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=45>

