

**Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES
NYSED Curriculum & Assessment Update
October 2008**

Testing Accommodations for Former Limited English Proficient/English Language Learners

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

On September 15, 2008, the Board of Regents approved a policy that permits schools to provide testing accommodations on NYS examinations to former limited English proficient/English language learners, for up to two years after they achieve proficiency on the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT).

Therefore, during the 2008-09 school year, schools may provide testing accommodations to former LEP/ELLs who achieved the proficient level on the NYSESLAT that was administered in either spring 2007 or spring 2008. The list of approved testing accommodations is attached to the memo from David Abrams, "Testing Accommodations for Former Limited English Proficient/English Language Learners," enclosed in the October Curriculum Council packet and on the following link: [\(See full Regents item\)](#)

New York State's Interim Growth Model Proposal

As per David Abrams, Assistant Commissioner for Standards, Assessment, and Reporting, NYSED

In addition to the information included in the September SED update about the Interim Growth Model, David Abrams' presentation on October 15 included information about the Middle School and High School Extensions. Specifically, growth would be re-calculated when students move from the elementary to the middle school/high schools.

- Students in middle school would be evaluated on whether they made sufficient growth to become proficient on the Regents examinations in Integrated Algebra and the Comprehensive Examination in English.
- Students would have until the target assessment to become proficient; the number of years permitted would be based on the grade the student entered middle school.
- Students who entered high school having scored a Level 1 or Level 2 on the grade 8 ELA or Math tests are considered on-track toward proficiency if they score 55-64 on the designated Regents examinations prior to 12th grade.

In addition, David Abrams mentioned that when the Value-Added Model is implemented in 2010-11, it would necessitate longer tests, and SED is considering lengthening the test through the use of additional multiple-choice items.

Differentiated Accountability Model Proposal to USDOE

As per Ira Schwartz, Coordinator, Accountability, Policy and Administration, NYSED SED will be submitting a differentiated accountability model proposal to the USDOE. If approved, implementation begins in 2009-10 using 2008-09 test results. The differentiated accountability model, which is a separate initiative from the USED growth model pilot, permits states to modify, within certain constraints, the system of sanctions and interventions that occur when a school is identified in need of improvement. One key aspect of the proposal is to create a simplified three-phase process for supporting and intervening in low-performing schools: *Improvement*, *Corrective Action*, and *Restructuring*, and differentiate three categories of intervention: Basic, Focused and Comprehensive, based upon the degree of systemic failure in a school. Other highlights of the proposal are included in your packet and at this link:

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/2008Meetings/October2008/1008emsca3.htm>

NYS Grades 3-8 Testing Program Changes

As per Johanna Duncan Poitier, Deputy Commissioner, NYSED

There will be changes in test administration and scheduling during the 2009-10 school year.

- In order to increase test turnaround time, NYSED wants to condense the testing schedule for 2009-10 into approximately seven days and test all grades concurrently. This will include the administration of make-up tests and test administration using accommodations.
- There is still discussion of having a 3-8 ELA and Math tested in the same week resembling a Regents week. The earliest that this would occur is 2010-11.

Geometry Sampler for the Regents Examination in Mathematics

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

- The test sampler for the Regents Examination in *Geometry* will be available by the end of October 2008. The test sampler will have the same format and number of questions that students and teachers will see in the *Geometry* Regents Examination.

- BOCES is holding a review of the *Geometry Test Sampler* on November 3, 2008 from 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM. Staff members who wish to participate in this overview can register through My Learning Plan at: www.pnwboces.org/catalog

Transfer Students Questions and Answers

As per Anne Schiano, Assistant Director, Curriculum, Instruction & Technology, NYSED The document on transfer student regulations and policy has recently been updated. The document includes information on bilingual education and a section on special education. The Q & As can be reached by going to www.emsc.nysed.gov/part100/pages/policytransgainrevision.html

Call for Expertise - Mathematics

As per Anne Schiano, Assistant Director, Curriculum, Instruction & Technology, NYSED Field Test Form Reviewers are needed the week of October 27th for the field tests in Integrated Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2 and Trigonometry. Stipends and travel expenses to Albany will be included. For committees and dates, please refer to the Call for Expertise site at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/call.htm>.

Grades 3-8 2007 Mathematics Tests

As per Anne Schiano, Assistant Director, Curriculum, Instruction & Technology, NYSED The Grades 3-8 2007 Mathematics Tests are now available on-line at <http://www.nysedregents.org/testing/mathei/07exams/home.htm>. Item maps with the performance indicators and multiple choice answer keys are also available.