

New York State Council of Educational Associations (NYSCEA)
May 13, 2005
Best Western Hotel, Wolf Road, Albany, N.Y.
Delegate Meeting Summary

◆ **8:30-9:30 James A. Kadamus, Deputy Commissioner for Office of
Elementary, Middle, Secondary and Continuing Education**

Graduation Standards:

- Regents preparing 4-year phase to raise graduation standard on regent exams to 65, beginning with students entering grade 9 in 2005.
- 2005 cohort – 2 exams @65; 2006 cohort - 3 exams at 65;
2007 cohort – 4 exams @65 and 2008 cohort –5 exams @65.
The local diploma will stay for the next three cohorts.
The only excused absence is illness – each District needs to define
“excused absence”.
- Regents would establish an appeals process for students scoring within
3 points of 65. Regents will vote on this in June.

Gail Wilkie- Association of Mathematics Teachers of NYS suggested we have a study on component re-testing. She believes it doesn't help the students. The Regents have a compensatory aspect (if student doesn't know one part of a subject, student may be able to compensate by knowing another part). In terms of component re-testing - If you keep testing what students don't know they still don't know it.

High School Completion Initiative:

- Data on 2000 cohort shows 30% of students don't graduate in 4 years (of those-12% drop out, 2% go to GED-the rest are still in school.
- High percentages of those still in schools have not taken all 5 required Regents exams.
- Many of those still in school repeated ninth grade at least once.
- SED has initiated a strategy to convene and work with high schools in 22 districts with lowest graduation rates.
- 300 representatives of those districts attended a 2-day high school summit in March.
- Another summit will occur in May 23 & 24 in NYC
- Planning underway for Fall meeting – possible expansion to other districts

Need to raise proficiency level of high school students –the following are programs and structures that have been initiated to address these needs:

Jim Kadamus posed the question:

Is the current High School structure the correct structure for students?

-Sustained Silent Reading program for students who don't read outside of school –have programs in school where ALL students have to read silently

-English Language Learners who come into country at 15 years old –in NYC creating an accelerated program which provides speaking, reading & writing program in 3 years rather than 4 years. Example: Manhattan Comprehensive HS.

-Small schools movement -Students in large High School-schools in NYC are using Bill Gates money to create smaller schools.

-Youth Recovery Program –programs for students who have “dropped-out”

-CTE programs (Career Technical Education program) – Programs that have career development have a high rate of effectiveness.

Aim to give students an incentive

Research shows that students can read but they cannot comprehend what they read. Common note-taking and research methodology will help low performing students to achieve-so they are not confused by different methods.

Middle-Level Dropout Strategy

- Fewer transitions the better
- Regents revising regulations in May to implement the 3 model strategy.
- Application in draft form for Model B and Model C – SED currently receiving comments.
- By mid-May-available to all districts
- If approved, new programs could begin September 2005
- Only districts/schools that have done some pre-planning should apply for Sept., 2005 start-up
- Encouraging others to use 2005-06 as a planning year and apply for Sept. 2006 start-up

Individual Student Record System/Virtual Learning System

- The name of a student will never be seen. Numbering system in place-numbers for student ID assigned by RICS
- E-scholar creates consistent software statewide
- Three levels for data warehouse/state data repository
- Level I repository – regional: Level 2 repository-statewide and Level 3 repository State use.
- VLS in operation –definitive source of standards-has hundreds of classroom lessons-link to <http://eservices.nysed.gov/vis>

Teachers can take the lessons/information on the site to help address the learning difficulties of their students.

State Testing Program Update:

- The 2005-06 elementary/intermediate testing calendar, including field test dates has been posted.
- This summer, the Officer of State Assessment will be providing suggestions on administration and scoring models, especially for special ed populations
- The Revised Mathematics Core Curriculum, with grade-by-grade performance indicators was issued in March 2005. ELA grade-by-grade performance indicators for pre-kindergarten through high school and a literacy strand prekindergarten-8 will be posted soon
- Regents accepted the recommendations of the Mathematics Standards Committee to have three one-year courses in math. Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II and Trigonometry. A decision on the number of Regents examinations to be developed and the number needed to meet diploma requirements will be made in the next 2-3 months.

NCLB Flexibility

- Secretary Spellings has announced an initiative to permit greater flexibility to State's that can demonstrate performance in closing achievement gaps.
- 1% limit on students with disabilities will be adjusted to permit an addition 2% of SWD's to use now defined standards and tests
- NYS will apply for flexibility – examining our options; need to look at whether we meet eligibility standard of 95% participation by SWD's

◆ **9:30-10:15 James Butterworth, Assistant Commissioner for Office of School Improvement and Community Services (Regional)**

A Global Outlook

In a Flat World by Friedman

-A platform was created that wired and connected the world.

Broadband connectivity and undersea cables create a platform where intellectual work can be delivered from anywhere.

-Out-sourcing is a force that we never had before

The Playing Field is Leveled

Friedman talks about the world shrinking from small to tiny. Anybody who has a laptop can interact with the world.

The World is Flat

The economy is actually cleaving

High End is concerned with relationships.

Hierarchies are being flattened and value is being created less and less within vertical silos and more and more through horizontal collaboration within companies, between companies and among individuals.

The Economic Imperative

Economy in US is growing

Consequences

We need replacement and we have to fill more spots. If there not enough students to fill the spots in US business people will move to use people overseas.

International Scene

-The huge difference between high-performing and low-performing students in the United States commonly called “the achievement gap” has brought down the United States’ global standing in quality of education.

-The US 34% college-drop-out rate is above the 30% average of all 30 OECD countries.

In Sum

9th graders’ readiness for HS and 12th graders’ readiness for college and work are driving high school reform.

Finish your homework – people in china and India are starving for your jobs.”

The Challenge

The reading and math ability of 9th graders ranges from elementary school to college level. The established routines of most High Schools are mismatched with the new demands.

Strategies to Re-Design

Breaking Ranks II - National Association for Secondary Principals

- Rigor
- Relevance – Motivation for students and responsive to real world needs
- Relationships

We need a school environment in which students develop relationships and low performing students are not just scenery for high achieving students.

“America’s high schools are obsolete”

Likened to trying to teach kids about today’s computers on a 50 year-old mainframe.

“Our high schools were designed 50 years ago to meet the needs of another age.”

Bill Gates, National Education Summit 2-26-05

A step to build momentum for change

Declare that all students can and should graduate from high school ready for college, work, and citizenship

Finland and Singapore take fewer topics and learn them in depth.

◆ 10:30-11:15 **Jean C. Stevens, Assistant Commissioner for Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support**

• **Overview**

Big picture

- Education
- Workforce/Economic Development
- USNY-November Summit
 1. What is the big picture?
 2. Where are we?
 3. Where do we need to go?

• **Curriculum update**

English Language Arts

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/3-8/home.html>

Mathematics

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/3-8/m-home.htm>

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/msp.htm>

Science

<http://emsc33.nysed.gov/ciai/mst/sciin.htm>

Learning Technology Grant

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/funding/ltg0506.htm>

• **Career & Technical Education Program Approval**

- Update on Programs
Students in a HS CTE (Career Technical Education) program do better on exams and more go into a college program.
- Re-Certification Status
- Major issues in Education:
 - how do you enhance the quality of programs?
 - teacher certification
 - getting support from Business and Industry
 - Small school initiatives

-NYC Department of Education/NYS Education Department Task Force

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/workforce/cte/cte.html>

- **Middle Level Education**

- Application
- Checklist –based on National models and research
 - how areas are assessed.

- **High Schools that Work (HSTW)**

- Transitions from school level to school level
- National Governors Association Connection
- Conferences

- **State and Federal Update**

- Special Services Aid
- Perkins Re-authorization
- Appropriations

Comments/Questions

Grace Wilkie, Association of Mathematics Teachers of NYS

Grace expressed her concern about the need for more SED Associates in every area. She asked, “How can we help SED get more associates?”

Jean Stevens response:

We need Language Other than English and we have only one Arts person for all the Arts. There has been a decrease in State support for SED Curriculum Associates from 45% to 9%. Because the funding from the State is so low there have been no cuts this year.

Jean suggested we could help SED by continuing to support the positive things the Associates do and provide.

Grace Wilkie, Association of Mathematics Teachers of NYS

Grace explained how NYSCEA has contributed to SED. Different members of NYSCEA have been asked for their input on different tasks. For example the Middle Level Education application and checklist.

Karl Krause Business Teachers Association of NYS

Assessments being farmed out are very expensive.

What resource factors hinder high schools from participating in the CTE approval process? Karl explained that most schools don't participate in the CTE approval process because of limited or expensive assessments. There are no Regents exams for Business electives.

Chuck Goodwin, NYS Technology Education Association

Re; Middle level checklist under Collaboration Row “C”. It would be more definitive to create a new indicator entitled for example “Connections Across Disciplines”. Chuck explained he believed this change would emphasize the importance of this expectation.

Jean Stevens

“ I think the suggestion is worthy of consideration.” She reminded everyone that SED is accepting additional suggestions to help fine tune the middle-level checklist document.

Pat Barbanell

How will the checklist be monitored? and who is minding the store?

How will the checklist be developed to judge if the students are learning what they were expected to learn re: the Standards.

There is an intent to have a level of monitoring by Butterworth staff.

Is there is an appeals process built into the middle level?

Jean Stevens – There is no appeals process as yet. The Regents are minding the store. Checklist for Model C will be used as a planning tool in terms of Student evidence –looking at language that would document what students are doing.

For further information: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/cis/home.html> or e-mail

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◆ **11:15-Noon David Abrams, Assistant Commissioner for Office of Standards, Assessments and Reporting (Jean Stevens gave his report)**

How can you compare the 3-8 testing to Regents?

-they are not high stakes –not pass/fail.

-There is a three-point cut.

-What decisions do we need to make about the youngsters based on the tests.

What will the tests look like?

Grade 4, 6, 8 longer tests.

Are there too many tests?

If you calculate time for tests given it is a short time.

Field-testing

Encouraged field-testing in the schools to get informative data for preparing the tests.

How do all students with disabilities have their testing needs met?

Will hold a focus group to develop strategies.

Electronic Scoring

Scoring sheets are expensive.

SED is looking at process to enhance procedures.

Two Superintendent Conference Days could be used for scoring-looking at ways how to use professional development days differently to help in the scoring of the tests.

How are the test results used?

To help schools make their annual reports.

How quickly can data be back to teachers?

120 days.

Problem:

1 1/4 million tests to over 3 million test. 700 plus districts.

Data cannot be scored unless all district information is in.

Joan Wagner Science Teachers Association of NYS, Inc.

Asked that SED re-look scheduling for written Science test in May.

As is the schedule gives teachers a month less of teaching

Susan Bogdan-Ritty, NYS Reading Association

Objected to using Staff development days for scoring.

Dennis Tosetto

Has there been consideration given to provide a week for testing at the middle level like the Regents exams?

Jean Stevens

It is clearly being looked at.

Hand-Outs Distributed at the meeting:

Update-Spring 2005 (Jim Kadamus, Deputy Commissioner for Office of
Elementary, Middle, Secondary and Continuing Education)

Powerpoint Documentation by Jean C Stevens, Assistant Commissioner,
Office of Curriculum & Instructional Support