NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

The Office of Higher Education (OHE) newsletter describes the current and upcoming activities related to higher education. This newsletter, past newsletters, and a subscription link are available online on the OHE website.

ASSESSMENT OF TEACHING SKILLS – WRITTEN (ATS-W) FOR THE EDTPA SAFETY NET

Critical Information for Candidates

The existing edTPA safety net (ATS-W) will remain available until June 30, 2018. Beginning on July 1, 2018, the ATS-W will no longer be available and candidates will no longer be able to register for or take that exam. Therefore, any teacher candidates who are planning to use the current edTPA Safety Net must submit their edTPA no later than May 24 so that they receive their edTPA score by June 14, giving them sufficient time to register for the ATS-W and find a testing center to take the exam by June 30. A memo to the field provides additional details about the timing of the ATS-W if teacher candidates would like the safety net to be an option.

BOARD OF REGENTS MARCH ITEMS

The Board of Regents approved the following regulation amendments for final adoption. They will become effective on March 28, 2018.

New Computer Science Certificate. There is a growing movement at the state and national levels for students to learn about computer science in schools. Several national computer science-related organizations collaborated with states, school districts, technology companies, and other organizations in the development of a K-12 Computer Science Framework (2016) that describes the computer science concepts and practices in which students should engage through elementary, middle, and high school. The new regulation creates a computer science certificate for all grades (P-12) and program registration requirements for computer science education programs. The computer science certificate and program requirements include coursework in the concepts described by the K-12 Computer Science Framework (2016).

Pre-Professional Teaching Assistants Enrolled in Teacher Preparation Programs. The new regulation for teacher candidates holding a Pre-Professional Teaching Assistant certificate ensures that these candidates could complete the student teaching experience while employed as a teaching assistant at a school district or BOCES; they would not need to leave their employment to complete this program requirement.

Alternative Teacher Preparation Program Flexibility. The Transitional B certificate enables individuals to be employed as a teacher while completing an alternative teacher preparation (ATP) program. Currently, Transitional B certificate holders must be employed full-time by the school or school district. However, some institutions of higher education have expressed an interest in creating ATP programs where the candidates are initially employed part-time, enabling them to gradually assume responsibility of their mentoring teacher's classroom. The new regulation allows candidates to be initially employed part-time and ultimately teach full-time for at least one school year under the guidance of a mentor, providing flexibility in ATP program models.

Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). The new regulation updates the language in the HEOP regulations to align with current practice. The eligibility requirements for opportunity programs would include new definitions of educationally and economically disadvantaged and ensure that access is targeted towards those students with the greatest need. In addition, the eligibility requirements would be standardized across public and private sector opportunity programs.

OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEES

Clinical Practice Work Group. The Clinical Practice Work Group has been meeting regularly to discuss best practices and aspirational goals for field experiences and student teaching in teacher preparation programs and has developed draft recommendations for changing the regulations related to clinical experiences. The work group collected feedback from the education community on the draft recommendations through a survey and regional meetings. The feedback from the survey and regional meetings will be considered by the work group at its March meeting when it develops the final recommendations for the Board of Regents this spring. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback!
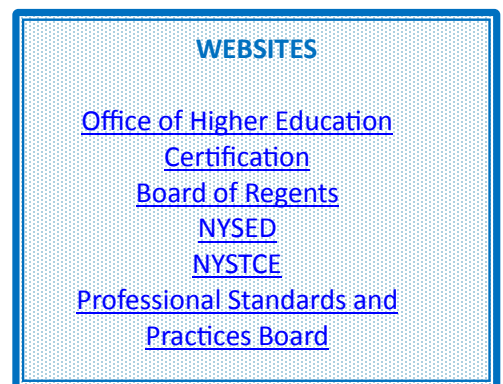
SCHOOL COUNSELOR PROGRAM REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

In May 2017, the Board of Regents approved new program registration requirements for school counselor education programs that are listed in Section 52.21(d) of the Commissioner's Regulations. The registration requirements are based on feedback from the field over several years. Programs leading to certification in school counseling must meet the new registration requirements by September 1, 2020. The Department will issue guidance on how institutions of higher education with current school counselor education programs should re-register their existing programs to comply with the new school counselor program registration requirements, including a timeline of when the new applications will be available and when the Department will begin accepting re-registration applications. A memo to the field provides additional details about the registration requirements for school counselor education programs.

NEW YORK STATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS (NYSTCE) TEST DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Teacher Candidate and Faculty Webinars. The Evaluation Systems Group is offering webinars for New York State teacher candidates and educator preparation program faculty on preparing for NYSTCE tests. Topics will include how to register for the test, what is on the test, how to use Frameworks and Study Guides to prepare, how to do your best, understanding test results, and contact information. Webinars will be held on the dates listed below. For instructions on how to join the webinars, refer to Important Announcements on the NYSTCE webpage.

- Monday, April 16, 11:00-12:00
- Wednesday, April 18, 3:00-4:00

> **WEBSITES**
>
> Office of Higher Education
> Certification
> Board of Regents
> NYSED
> NYSTCE
> Professional Standards and
> Practices Board

Recruitment for the Educating All Students-II (EAS-II) Selected Response Item Review Committees. At the direction of the Board of Regents, the EAS test is being redeveloped. The Department is seeking qualified professionals to serve as committee members for the Selected Response Item Review Committee scheduled to convene in August 2018. Certified P-12 educators, including those with experience with students with disabilities populations, and higher education professionals, as well as educator preparation faculty who are preparing these teachers, are encouraged to apply by visiting the Teacher Participation Opportunities webpage and completing the online application. Please submit your nominations and applications now. If you are not available for this work, we ask that you nominate one or two educators who are knowledgeable in the field. Once you have nominated them, please ask your nominees to go to the same link to complete the application.