



New York State
Disability Services Council

NYS Higher Education Plan 2012-2020

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As the NYS Office of Higher Education has drafted its 2012-2020 Plan the NYS Board of Regents has passed an Emergency Action to allow the State Education Department to lower the passing rate on Regents exams for students with disabilities. The plan is a revision of the current safety net. The new safety net allows students with disabilities who score between 45-64 on Regents exams (other than English and Math which still require a passing grade of 55) to earn a local diploma as long as each grade between 45-54 is balanced by a score on another Regents exam which is 65 or higher so that the two when averaged equal a minimum grade of 55.

This change is occurring at the same time as SUNY, in the response to college readiness, states that a grade of 75 on the English Regents and 80 on the Math Regents are necessary to demonstrate college readiness for degree credit course work. SUNY is simultaneously proposing a 10 year plan to eliminate remediation citing an annual base cost of \$70 million to provide remedial support.

Impact on Community Colleges: The proposed low pass rate on one or more Regents exams awards a student with a high school diploma and with it eligibility to enroll in full opportunity NYS colleges. This means that these students will be eligible to be admitted for matriculation in these colleges without the requisite skills to be competitive and complete a program of study. The impact on full opportunity community colleges cannot be overstated.

At a time when all colleges are straining to function with shrinking budgets, even a moderate increase in the number of students requiring the level of assistance required by these local diploma graduates would overwhelm existing resources of the disability offices, Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP), tutoring centers, and pre-college programs.