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

BOARD OF REGENTS DECEMBER ITEMS

K-12 Computer Science and Digital Fluency Learning Standards. The Board of Regents adopted the New York State K-12 Computer Science and Digital Fluency Learning Standards. The memo to the Regents and the presentation to the Board provide information about the Standards, including a description of the development process and the timetable for roll-out and implementation. The Computer_Science_and_Digital_Fluency_website also includes this information along with links to the Standards by grade band, glossary of terms, Standards examples, Standards at a Glance documents, and FAQs. The Standards will be fully implemented by September 2024.

Computer Science Teacher Preparation Program Content Core Requirement. The Department presented a proposed regulatory amendment to revise the content core requirement in computer science teacher preparation programs. Currently, the regulations state that the content core requirement is at least 12 semester hours that provides a knowledge base for assisting students in understanding five specified computer science concepts (e.g., algorithms and programming), until such time that the Department adopts State learning standards for computer science. The proposal would change the content core requirement to at least 12 semester hours that provides a knowledge base for assisting students in meeting the recently adopted New York State K-12 Computer Science and Digital Fluency Learning Standards. It is anticipated that the proposal will be presented to the Board of Regents for adoption at its April 2021 meeting.

Principal Talent Management System. The Department provided an update on the Principal Talent Management System (PTMS) and demonstrated how school districts could utilize it. When district leaders need to hire a new principal or assistant principal, PTMS will help them tap into a larger pool of School Building Leader-certified individuals who possess the experience and credentials that meet their schools’ needs. The computer system searches the Department’s databases to locate individuals who meet the district’s customized criteria, then offers the option to send canvassing emails to those candidates. To ensure privacy, the names and contact information of people in the candidate pool are not revealed to the individuals in the district conducting the search. The system is slated to go live in early 2021.

RECORDING OF THE EDUCATOR DIVERSITY REPORT WEBINAR HOSTED BY NYSATE/NYACTE

Last winter, amid growing recognition of the value of diversity in New York State’s educator workforce, the New York State Education Department published an Educator Diversity Report that provides an overview of teacher diversity throughout the state. The report advances the issue by compiling relevant data, analysis, and resources and identifying promising next steps toward a more diverse workforce and a more equitable education system.

Assistant Commissioner Anael Alston and Chief of Staff Allison Armour-Garb presented highlights from the report’s findings and recommendations during a webinar hosted by New York State Association of Teacher Educators (NYSATE) / New York Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (NYACTE) on December 4. Click here to view a recording of the webinar. If you have not been on Crowdcast in the past, you may be asked to register to view the recording.
Learning Standards for Languages Other Than English. The Department presented the Board of Regents with a draft of revised New York State Learning Standards for Languages Other Than English (LOTE) and a description of the revision process. The Department will continue to revise the Standards and will ask the Board of Regents to consider adopting the revised Standards at their February 2021 meeting. At the February 2021 meeting, the Department will also propose changing Languages Other Than English to World Languages.