



# NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION EDUCATOR PREPARATION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021

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](#).

## NEW COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

The Board of Regents has appointed Dr. Betty A. Rosa as the permanent Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York. She is the first Latina woman to serve in the position and has served as Interim Commissioner since August 2020. Dr. Rosa was first elected to the Board of Regents in 2008 and re-elected for two successive terms. She was also elected by her Board of Regents colleagues as Chancellor in March 2016 and re-elected for a second term.

Dr. Rosa is a nationally recognized education leader and has more than 30 years of instructional and administrative experience. She began her career in the NYC Department of Education as a bilingual paraprofessional, teacher and reading coordinator, and assistant principal and principal in special education. In addition, she developed and implemented the Office of Conflict Resolution for the NYC Division of Special Education. In 1998, Dr. Rosa was appointed to the position of Superintendent of Community School District 8 in the Bronx, and later appointed to serve as the Senior Superintendent of the Bronx.

Dr. Rosa received an Ed.M. and Ed.D. in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University. She also holds two Master of Science in Education degrees, one in Administration and Supervision and the other in Bilingual Education from the City College of New York and Lehman College, respectively. She earned a B.A. in psychology from the City College of New York. Additional information about Dr. Rosa's many accomplishments and activities are described in a [news release](#).

## BOARD OF REGENTS FEBRUARY ITEMS

**Definition of University.** At its November 2020 meeting, the Board of Regents reviewed a [presentation](#) on the definition of "university" in the Commissioner's regulations. Members of the Board expressed an interest in considering a revision to the definition to address issues raised by some colleges and in receiving input from New York State institutions of higher education (IHEs).

In developing its proposal, the Department balanced the interests of IHEs with the Regents' interest in maintaining high standards and ensuring breadth and depth of academic offerings by institutions that use the word "university" in their names. The Department [proposed a regulatory amendment](#) to revise the definition of "university" to read as follows:

"University means a higher educational institution offering a range of registered undergraduate and graduate curricula in the liberal arts and sciences and doctoral programs registered in at least three of the following discipline areas: agriculture, biological sciences, business, education, engineering, fine arts, health professions, humanities, physical sciences, and social sciences."

The proposed definition maintains the requirement for a range of undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts and sciences, as well as a requirement for doctoral-level programs in at least three of the 10 discipline areas used in the NYS Taxonomy of Academic Programs. In response to requests from institutions, the revised definition clarifies that all doctoral degrees (e.g., D.N.P., Ed.D., Pharm.D.), not only the Ph.D., could satisfy this definition. Consistent with the intent to broaden the definition, this proposal also eliminates the requirement for “degrees in two or more professional fields.”

The New York State Education Department will accept public comments on the proposal through April 26, 2021. Comments can be submitted by email to [regcomments@nysed.gov](mailto:regcomments@nysed.gov).

**Emergency Measures in Response to COVID-19.** The Department gave a [presentation](#) on the following [emergency measures](#) that were adopted by the Board of Regents in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Student Teaching and Partnership Requirements.** The deadline for New York State approved teacher preparation programs to revise their student teaching and partnership requirements, according to the Commissioner’s regulations, was extended by one year such that the program revisions would apply to candidates who first enroll in a registered program in the Fall 2023 semester, instead of the Fall 2022 semester, and thereafter. The extension provides programs with additional time to make the required revisions, if needed.

The required student teaching and partnership revisions include changing the length of the student teaching experience from at least 40 days to at least a full semester of at least 14 weeks; establishing memoranda of understanding (MOUs), or similar collaborative agreements, with the appropriate entities in which candidates are involved in clinical experiences; and, for institutions that have partnerships with one or more community colleges that create pathways into their teacher preparation program(s), ensuring that candidates have the opportunity to participate in clinical experiences during their community college program.

- **Individual Evaluation Pathway to Certification.** The date by which candidates who apply for certification through the Individual Evaluation pathway must satisfy a longer teaching experience requirement (e.g., at least 14 weeks instead of at least 40 days) was extended from September 1, 2026 to September 1, 2027. This one-year extension is consistent with the one-year extension for registered teacher preparation programs to revise their student teaching requirements, as described above.
- **Accreditation.** Institutions of higher education (IHEs) that have both initial level and advanced level educator preparation programs, and their initial level programs have been reviewed and accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) but their advanced level programs have not yet been reviewed and accredited by CAEP, have the opportunity to take additional time to complete the accreditation process for their advanced level programs. Specifically, they may wait for the next accreditation review of their initial level programs to have their advanced level programs reviewed and accredited by CAEP, and those advanced level programs will still be considered continuously accredited until that accreditation review takes place. If at any time during the accreditation process CAEP determines that the institution's program or programs cannot be accredited and/or that the institution has not diligently pursued an application for accreditation, the institution's program or programs will not be considered continuously accredited.

IHEs that intend to utilize the additional time to have their advanced programs accredited by CAEP should notify the Department by sending an email to [OCUEdapps@nysed.gov](mailto:OCUEdapps@nysed.gov). IHEs need to contact CAEP directly concerning any applicable CAEP requirements and directions.

- **Computer Science.** The dates listed in the computer science tenure and computer science statement of continued eligibility (SOCE) regulations were extended from September 1, 2022 to September 1, 2023. This change signals that the date by which teachers need to hold the Computer Science certificate or SOCE to teach computer science courses has also been extended by one year to September 1, 2023.

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

**Recruiting Educators for Test Development Committees.** The Department is seeking educators to participate in the following committees that will meet in 2021. Higher education professionals, including both higher education educator preparation faculty and higher education faculty who have content expertise, are encouraged to apply for the committees by visiting the [Educator Involvement Opportunities webpage](#) and completing the [online application](#).

- Standard Setting for the revised School Building Leader Assessment
- Framework Review for the new Computer Science Content Specialty Test
- Framework Review for the new School Counselor Content Specialty Test
- Framework Review for the revised Physical Education Content Specialty Test
- Item Review for the revised Business and Marketing Content Specialty Test
- Item Review for the revised Bilingual Education Assessments

## EDTPA VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WEBINARS

The edTPA Support Team at the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson will be hosting webinars in March about [completing the edTPA in a virtual learning environment](#). Information about the webinars, including the descriptions of each session and the registration links, is available [online](#).

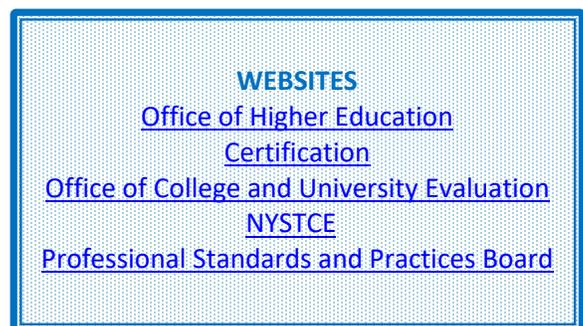
## TEACHING IN REMOTE/HYBRID LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Last month, we introduced the New York State Education Department's award of the federal Rethink K-12 Education Models Grant and the program it created, Teaching in Remote/Hybrid Learning Environments (TRLE). The program intends to provide professional learning support to all educators in New York State, including those in public school districts, non-public schools, and charter schools. More information about this important program is posted [online](#).

The TRLE project is designed to meet the learning needs of educators, and a key component of that is hearing directly from them about the tools and skills they need to best support students in remote/hybrid learning environments. To facilitate this conversation, our external evaluation partners at the SUNY Stony Brook Center for Teaching and Learning have started analyzing preliminary findings from the [Initial Teacher Reflection](#). We are happy to report that over 5,000 educators throughout the state have completed the reflection and 70% of respondents are interested in participating in further evaluation work toward TRLE goals, including sitting on focus group panels and participating in interviews.

There is still time for teachers to participate in the reflection on the tools and skills most needed to facilitate remote/hybrid instruction. We encourage you to share the [reflection link](#) with teachers. The reflection remains open for teachers through March 15<sup>th</sup>. A separate reflection for school administrators will be distributed in early March.

We hope that you continue to keep up to date as these tools and resources are rolled out to the field by visiting the [TRLE website](#).



**OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION****Deputy Commissioner:** William Murphy

Room 975 EBA

89 Washington Avenue

Albany, NY 12234

(518) 486-3633

[www.highered.nysed.gov](http://www.highered.nysed.gov)**NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT****Commissioner:** Betty A. Rosa**Chancellor:** Lester W. Young, Jr.**Board of Regents Higher Education Committee****Co-Chairs:** Kathleen Cashin, Catherine Collins[www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov)[www.regents.nysed.gov](http://www.regents.nysed.gov)