



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

NOVEMBER 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](#).

BOARD OF REGENTS NOVEMBER ITEMS

Certification. The Department presented an overview of certification and [plans for a comprehensive review of certification](#) in response to teacher shortages across New York State. Based on feedback from the field, there are many certification regulations, policies, and procedures under review. Next steps in the review include: making certification changes driven by Board of Regents policy goals; investing in a supportive, responsive, and efficient certification process for applicants; continuing stakeholder engagement; reducing certification complexity to achieve policy goals while maintaining rigorous standards; and proposing regulatory changes to the Board of Regents at future meetings, as necessary.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE-LEVEL TEACHER AND EDUCATIONAL LEADER PROGRAMS

Until recently, New York State registered graduate-level teacher and educational leader programs were required to have admission requirements that included: 1) a minimum score on the graduate record examination or a substantially equivalent admission examination for candidates who are not certified teachers or school administrators that already hold a graduate degree, and 2) a minimum 3.0 undergraduate cumulative grade point average. In addition, each program could exempt no more than 15% of the candidates from any incoming class from these requirements based on the candidates' demonstration of potential to positively contribute to the teaching profession or other extenuating circumstances pursuant to the Commissioner's regulations.

Governor Hochul signed two bills that changed these admission requirements effective November 15, 2021. [One bill](#) removes the requirement that candidates must have a minimum score on the graduate record examination or a substantially equivalent admission examination. [The second bill](#) increases the percentage of candidates from any incoming class in a program who can be exempted from the admission requirements from 15% to 50%. Therefore, up to 50% of the candidates from any incoming class in a program can be exempt from the 3.0 undergraduate cumulative grade point average admission requirement in the future based on the candidates' demonstration of potential to positively contribute to the teaching profession or other extenuating circumstances pursuant to the Commissioner's regulations.

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE-SUSTAINING EDUCATION FRAMEWORK MATERIALS

To support districts and schools in raising awareness of the [Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education \(CR-S\) Framework](#), the New York State Education Department has released three optional Professional Development Toolkits that can be shared within schools and professional communities. The [toolkits](#) contain PowerPoint presentations and turnkey facilitation guides tailored to three audience types: General Session, Teacher Session, and Administrative/District Leaders Session. The toolkits are customizable to address districts', schools', or communities' unique needs. [Three articles](#) written by educators that share ideas and resources on implementing the CR-S Framework were also released. Additional resources for the CR-S Framework are [available online](#).

GRADUATION MEASURES REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Board of Regents and New York State Education Department hosted regional meetings across the State in Winter 2020 to collect feedback on the State's high school graduation measures. The meetings were suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are now resuming. The final set of meetings will be held virtually from December 2021 through February 2022. Information about the review of high school graduation measures, including the regional meeting schedule, is available on the [Graduation Measures website](#).

WEBSITES
[Office of Higher Education
Certification](#)
[Office of College and University Evaluation
NYSTCE](#)
[Professional Standards and Practices Board](#)

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