

## November Regents Items

<u>Regents Items</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p>Update on Initiatives to Expand Access to Quality Career and Technical Education Programs</p>	<p>EMSC</p>	<p>The Committee had a discussion with a panel of practitioners and students on what the challenges are to starting and expanding CTE programs and what new initiatives might help to expand access to career and technical education programs. The panel included Jessica Cohen, District Superintendent, Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES; Gregg Bethel, Senior Executive for Career &amp; Technical Education, New York City Department of Education; and two New York City CTE students. Dr. Cohen and Mr. Bethel discussed the challenges that districts face in starting up and expanding CTE programs which include: first-year funding; balancing what programs meet the needs of industry and the economy and those in which students are interested; addressing the differentiated instruction needs of students with disabilities; and the cost of installing and maintaining up-to-date equipment. The two high school students shared how they became aware of CTE programs, how the experience has been beneficial to their education, and how it has influenced their decision to go to college.</p>

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English Language Learners	EMSC	<p>The Committee discussed the graduation rate data for English language learners (ELLs) and the significant achievement gap for these students. This was a companion item to the September discussions about the graduation rates for students with disabilities and Black and Latino male students. Staff presented information on the graduation results for the most recent cohort of students who graduated in 2007. Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo, Jose Davila, from the Immigration Coalition, and Luis Reyes, from the Coalition for Educational Excellence for English Language Learners, attended the meeting and responded to questions from members of the Committee. The Regents agreed that they would like more discussion on strategies to address the needs of this group of students and other student groups with low graduation rates.</p>
Professional Development for School Leaders – Conceptual Proposal for Revisions to School District Plans	HE	<p>The Committee discussed a conceptual proposal to update the school district professional development plan for school leaders and teachers. Suggestions were made that the draft language be aligned with Regents priorities (including closing the achievement gap, teaching in urban settings, and the inclusion of technology training and support). Staff will draft regulations for discussion by the Committee in February or March.</p>

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<p>Proposed Regents 2009 State and Federal Legislative Priorities</p>	<p>Full Board</p>	<p>The Regents approved 2009-10 legislative priorities, including the following proposals on BOCES and the cap on the salaries of the District Superintendents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Pursuant to the recommendations of the Commission on Property Tax Relief and the Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness, the district superintendents are developing a proposal to expand and enhance BOCES' role in providing intermunicipal and component school district services. It will include a recommendation that the cap on the district superintendent salary be repealed.</li><li>- In many areas of the state BOCES district superintendent compensation has fallen well below that of local school district superintendents who the BOCES superintendents are expected to lead. This is due to the law enacted 15 years ago that capped the salary a district superintendent can receive. This relative drop in compensation has made the recruitment and retention of district superintendents increasingly difficult.</li></ul> <p>Over the past decade several new laws and State Education Department policies have created additional accountability for district superintendents. Repealing the salary cap would allow BOCES boards to use funds to create the compensation agreements they need to hire leaders of the quality essential to fulfill the role the Regents education agenda demands. It also would re-establish an appropriate level of local control and focus more accountability at the local level, where it is most effective. The legislation would require no additional state funds.</p>
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Interim Action by Subcommittee on State Aide	Full Board	The Board of Regents authorized the Subcommittee on State Aid to take interim action between the November and December 2008 Regents meeting so that the Board of Regents State Aid Proposal may be approved by the Subcommittee on behalf of the Board of Regents, and thereby ensure its availability and consideration by the Governor's Office prior to the anticipated release of the Executive Budget Proposal on or about December 16, 2008. Any interim action taken by the Subcommittee must be reported to the full Board at the December meeting.
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