

Suffolk Region PTA

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Education Report

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NYSED to develop a plan for ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act):

- State proposed 36 high-level concepts designed to help schools succeed.
- Schools must prepare for ESSA provisions
  - Soliciting feedback of input from educators, parents, and students including those students with disabilities, and English language learners.
  - Once Board of Regents approves state's draft in early 2017, a second round of feedback will be open to the public and will include public regional meetings statewide.

NYSED Early Learning Task Force to address concerns of early learners including. Some include:

- What does the research show about how students learn in the early grades and how are standards structured?
- Are there too many standards/expectations in the early grades?
- How can play and curiosity/inquiry be included as an approach to learning?
- What is the best approach to teach the "whole child," keeping in mind both the academic and social/emotional needs?

\$10.4 million given to 25 high-need school districts: NYS will provide funding for quality pre-K to 1,500 three-year-olds in high need areas.

- Expansion of pre-k is part of the State's ongoing efforts to promote early education, specifically in high-need districts, and improve the academic future for all students.
- School districts received funding based on factors such as the district and/or student need, and where it will benefit the most students.
- Board of Regents Chancellor Betty A. Rosa stated, "Research shows that as much as half of the achievement gap is already established before students enter first grade," **said Board of Regents Chancellor Betty A. Rosa.** "Investing in high-quality prekindergarten programs can narrow the achievement gap between low-income and affluent youth and have a

positive long-term impact on children's lives. Giving our children a quality head start is simply the right thing to do."