

Suffolk Region Education Report:

January 2022

December 7, 2021: NYS Department of Education launched their Digital Equity Portal. *“Digital inequity is a complex and multi-faceted problem,”* said Board of Regents Chancellor Lester W. Young, Jr. *“The Board of Regents and I understand that closing digital equity gaps will require the coordination, cooperation and the intentional capacity building of the many organizations supporting digital inclusion across New York.”*

<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2021/digital-equity-portal-launches-new-york-state>

December 13, 2021: NYS State Education Department has proposed changes to the teacher certification process. They are proposing replacing the edTPA with a NYS teacher assessment. The edTPA is a national test that costs \$300 and often becomes the focus of students during the student teaching process. Studies show that students often focus on passing the edTPA and miss out on other learning opportunities during their time as student teachers.

<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2021/state-education-department-proposes-changes-teacher-certification-requirements-reduce>

December 22, 2021: *“The New York State Education Department submitted a waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) to address equity issues in the state’s accountability system because of the pandemic.”* Title 1 School improvement grant funds have strict accountability attached to them and the pandemic impacted some of these areas of accountability. The State is asking the federal government for flexibility in the areas that were impacted.

<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2022/state-education-department-submits-federal-waiver-usde>

January 4, 2022: Governor Hochul announced her plans to fix some of the state’s educational issues during her State of the State Address. She touched ways to address the impending teacher shortage as well as fully funding foundation aid. A summary of her remarks:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-new-investment-new-yorks-students-teachers-and-schools>

January 6, 2022: Nassau County’s newly installed Executive, Bruce Blakeman, issued an executive order rejecting New York State’s school mask mandate and ordering the Nassau County Boards of Education to meet during January and decide on their mask policy for themselves. Betty Rosa and others immediately responded.

The executive order:

<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/35993/County-Executive-Order-1---2022?bid=>

NYS Education Commissioner's response:

<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2022/statement-commissioner-betty-rosa-nassau-county-executive-order>

NYSUT’s response: <https://www.nysut.org/news/2022/january/media-release-nassau>