Bevin Llanes
Education Chair - Advocacy Team
bevinllanes.pta@gmail.com

Report as of February 10, 2020

1.   The Board of Regents and New York State Education Department (NYSED) are kicking off 2020 with a series of regional meetings to discuss the review of New York State's graduation measures. NYSED announced dates and times for the first regional meetings being hosted across the state to gather feedback on what a state diploma should signify to ensure educational excellence and equity for every student in New York State. The meetings are an integral part of Phase I in the Board and Department's review of graduation measures and will offer opportunities for stakeholders and members of the public to share input. Suffolk will be having a meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, the host is Regent Roger Tilles, of the 10th Judicial District. It will be held from 5-8 at Eastern Suffolk BOCES, The Instructional Support Center at Sequoya, 750 Waverly Ave, Holtsville, NY. This link will take you to the dates and link to register for attendance. http://www.nysed.gov/grad-measures/regional-meetings

2.   NYSED also released graduation rates for the 2015 cohort, those students who first entered ninth grade in New York's public schools in 2015. The overall August graduation rate increased slightly to 83.4 percent, up 0.8 percentage points from 82.6 percent for the 2014 cohort. The 2015 cohort graduation rate is 7.3 percentage points higher than it was a decade earlier, when the 2006 cohort graduation rate was 76.1 percent. This year's graduation rate improved for black and Hispanic students, for students with disabilities, and for both current and "Ever" English language learners (ELLs). Each of the Big 5 City School Districts saw gains, and all but Buffalo had growth in their graduation rates that exceeded statewide growth.

3.   The Board of the Regents today acted to conditionally approve New York State's first ever Learning Standards for Computer Science and Digital Fluency. The State Education Department conducted a collaborative process over a fifteen-month period that included a group of statewide experts on computer science and educational technology to assist in creating computer science and digital fluency standards that best meet the needs of students across New York State. Today, the standards were conditionally approved by the Board of Regents P-12 Committee. The additional time will allow for the Department to engage with early learning experts to ensure the K-2 standards are developmentally appropriate. The standards will be returned to the Board later this year for final adoption. The New York State K-12 Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards are organized into five Concepts: Impacts of Computing, Computational Thinking, Networks and Systems Design, Cybersecurity, and Digital Literacy. Each Concept contains two or more Sub-Concepts. Within the Sub-Concepts are a number of standards. The standards are grouped into grade-bands: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Students are expected to master the standards by the end of the last year of the grade band. http://www.nysed.gov/news/2020/board-regents-acts-conditionally-approve-first-ever-learning-standards-computer-science