



Report as of October 21, 2019

1. Interim Commissioner Beth Berlin is leaving next month after a six year tenure at the NYS Dept of Education. The Board of Regents will take a more active role in the Department of Education until a replacement is found. They will appoint an Acting Commissioner prior to her departure on November 15. They are in the process of moving forward with a RFP for a search to find the next Education Commissioner on a permanent basis.

2. New York State Archives and the Archives Partnership Trust announced winners of the 2019 Student Research Award on October 10, 2019. It is an annual award program that is a statewide competition for students in grades 4-12. The awards recognize students for their excellence in research and it encourages students to explore the historical records held in cultural institutions and repositories across New York State. Awards were given in the categories of Grades 4-5 (10 winners), Grades 6-8 (1 winner) and Grades 9-12 (3 winners).

3. The Board of Regents continues its discussion about New York State high school graduation measures. The ultimate goal is to reaffirm what it means to obtain a diploma in New York State and what that diploma should signify to ensure educational excellence and equity for all students. The three phases of the graduation measures review include:

- Phase I: Information Gathering (November 2019 - February 2020)
 - Regional Workgroups
 - Regional Stakeholder Feedback on Guiding Questions
 - Review of Research and Practices in Other States
- Phase II: Blue Ribbon Commission (March 2020 - Spring 2021)
 - Blue Ribbon Commission Meets and Develops Recommendations
- Phase III: Regents Discussion (Fall 2021)
 - Board of Regents Presentation and Policy Discussion

The new Graduation Measures web page provides information about the review process and a link to subscribe for updates. Keep checking back; we will continue to add more details. The specific dates and locations of the Regional Workgroup meetings, which will take place between November 2019 - January 2020, will be added as they become available. I tried to see what was on the page and was denied access but did subscribe for email updates.