

Suffolk Region Education Report:

March 2022

It was with nerves and excitement that the children returned to school with masks optional on March 2. This hopefully marked the beginning of the end of Covid impacting our schools.

February 16, 2022: State Education Department released the graduation rates of the 2017 Cohort. That is the students that entered 9th grade in 2017. (Most of us would think of this as the Class of 2021.) There was an increase of graduation rate between 2016 and 2017 of 1.3% and over the last 10 years an increase of 9.4%. Specific details and breakdowns can be found in this article.

<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2022/state-education-department-releases-2017-cohort-high-school-graduation-rates>

March 10, 2022: The State Education Department announced proposed regulations that would allow private schools to prove the equivalency of their education. Comments are being accepted until May 31, 2022 and you can read about it

<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2022/departments-proposes-regulations-substantial-equivalency-instruction-nonpublic-schools>

March 14, 2022: Board of Regents Unanimously Re-Elects Dr. Lester W. Young, Jr. To Serve as Chancellor and Josephine V. Finn as Vice Chancellor.

<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2022/board-regents-unanimously-re-elects-dr-lester-w-young-jr-serve-chancellor-and-josephine-v>

March 14, 2022 Governor Hochul announced \$2.5 million in funding over the next 5 year for a mental health resource center for schools.

"The pandemic has made life difficult for all New Yorkers, including young people who have been through so much these past two years," Governor Hochul said. "This funding will help ensure that schools in New York are able to teach our children about mental health with an age-appropriate curriculum that will decrease fear and stigma and encourage kids to talk to their parents, caregivers or teachers about any concerns they may have."

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-25-million-funding-mental-health-resource-center-schools>

School Budgets: NOW is the time to give your input on next year's schools budget!!!! Your local board of education is beginning to hold their meetings to formulate next year's budget. Once the budget is released, it's too late. Attend meetings now and give your input.