



New York State EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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Office of Special Education News and Notes- March 2016

New Memorandum on Testing Accommodations for State Assessments

The Department has released a field advisory to clarify the testing accommodations available to students for the upcoming Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics State assessments. This memo is available at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2016-memos/testing-accommodations-spring-2016-ela-math-grades-3-8.html>

The Department is continuing to reevaluate State policy on use of testing accommodations on State assessments, especially as we approach the start of operational computer-based testing in Grades 3-8 starting in the 2016-17 school year.

New Regents Exam Score Appeal Policy

At the March Board of Regents meeting, the Board approved a revision to regulations to allow students to appeal scores of 60-64 (expanded from 62-64) on up to two Regents examinations and to eliminate the requirement that students meet a minimum attendance requirement of 95 percent, exclusive of excused absences, in the year they last took the examination under appeal. The repeal of the attendance provision applies to all appeals including students with disabilities seeking the local diploma (52-54), and English Language Learners seeking the ELA appeal (55-61). The repeal of the attendance requirement also applies to students who appeal a score of between 52 and 55 under current regulations. See <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/316p12a3.pdf>.

New CDOS Pathway to Graduation

At the March Board of Regents meeting, the Board approved a new graduation pathway for all students. Beginning in June 2016 and thereafter, a student may graduate with a regular high school diploma if the student completes the credit requirements; meets the requirements to earn the Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential (CDOS); and passes four Regents assessments, one in each of the four discipline areas of math, English, science, and social studies. In addition, the regulations were revised to expand the opportunity to earn the CDOS Commencement Credential to all students, not just students with disabilities. See <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/316p12a1.pdf>

Revised Proposed Regulations

In response to public comment, NYSED has revised proposed regulations to amend sections 200.4, 200.16 and 200.20 of the Regulations of the Commissioner relating to 1:1 aide recommendations and preschool special education programs and services. Public comment on the revised proposed regulations will be accepted until May 6, 2016. See <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2016-memos/regulation-amendment-for-one-to-one-aides.html>

Open eBooks App Available to Special Education Programs

The [federal government](#) has officially launched the Open eBooks App in an effort to

ease the burden of purchasing books on school budgets, promote learning through the use of technology and increase students' access to alternate pathways to reading materials. Open eBooks App is offering \$250 million worth of book in a digital format for use on smartphones and tablets to Title 1, military base schools and special education programs. To learn more about the Open eBooks App see: <http://openebooks.net/faq.html>

New Contracts Awarded to 14 Early Childhood Direction Centers

New 5-year contract awards have been issued to 14 Early Childhood Direction Centers (ECDCs). ECDCs are the State's primary technical assistance centers to provide information, referral services and professional development for families and preschool providers. Further information can be accessed at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/ecdc/home.html>

Professional Development and Technical Assistance for Early Childhood Providers:

New York State's Response to Intervention Technical Assistance Center is sponsoring regional sessions on **Recognition and Response (R&R): An Instructional System to Enhance Early Academic Learning in Pre-K**. The Recognition and Response (R&R) framework is designed to enhance early academic learning in language, literacy, and mathematics. Regional sessions are scheduled as follows:

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| Tuesday, May 3, 2016 – Holiday Inn Express and Suites - Latham, New York |
| Thursday, May 5, 2016 – RIT Inn and Conference Center - Henrietta, New York |
| Monday, May 16, 2016 – Holiday Inn - Plainview, New York |
| Wednesday, May 18, 2016 – Residence Inn By Marriott-Times Square – New York, New York |

To learn more about these regional training sessions please refer to the NYS Rtl TAC website at: <http://www.nysrti.org/page/on-site-trainings/>. If you have any questions

regarding this announcement, please contact Jason O'Connell at (518) 486-7462.

“Preschool Inclusion: What’s the Evidence, What Gets in the Way, and What do High-Quality Programs Look Like?”

On February 18, 2016, the U.S. Departments of Education (US-DOE) and Health & Human Services (US-DHHS) hosted a National Inclusion Webinar as part of a series of webinars on Inclusion in Early Childhood Programs. The streaming presentation and materials can be accessed at: <http://ectacenter.org/~calls/2016/nationalinclusion.asp>.

Mathematics and English Language Arts Standards Review Committees

Beginning in spring 2016, NYSED will convene Mathematics and ELA Standards Review Committees to review the recommendations from the AIMHighNY survey; review the P-12 Common Core Learning Standards; and make any necessary revisions to the State's learning standards. If you are a **special education teacher** and are interested in being considered for the Standards Review Committees, please review the information at <http://www.nysed.gov/aimhighny>. Applications are due by **April 4, 2016**.

Web posting of Approved Preschool Special Education Programs

A list of all New York State Education Department approved preschool special education programs is now available on the NYSED website. <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/preschool/approved-preschool-special-education-program-sites.html>



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