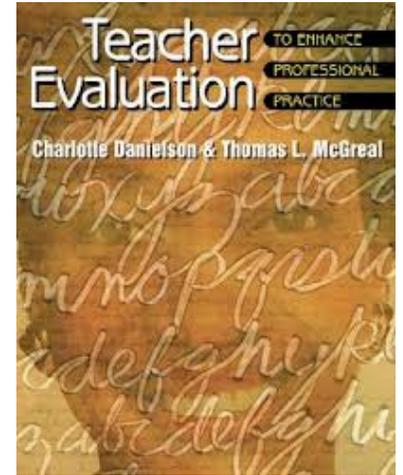


APPR FLURRY OF ACTIVITY

Status Report SED has approved APPR evaluation plans for roughly 107 school districts, including 34 districts on Long Island, out of the 715 districts statewide. Approximately 382 districts have not yet submitted plans. SED has stated that it takes from four to six weeks to review an evaluation plan, with each plan receiving two independent reviews, followed by a third to reconcile differences. With the relatively small number of plans already reviewed, combined with the January deadline looming, SED has hired more staff to support the process. Districts that do not have plans approved by January 17th may lose state aid increases promised for this year.



School districts are racing to develop new ways to measure students progress this year, especially for teachers of students who do not take standardized tests. This involves assessing students, setting goals and re-testing them later to determine whether goals have been achieved. The extremely tight deadlines are giving rise to criticism's that APPR has been rushed into place. One New York State Official said the process might move faster now that the state has selected some plans as models which other districts may use to guide their planning (see "APPR Resources" below for a link to Model APPR Plans).

APPR Glitches One problem with the data school districts are receiving is that as many as half of students can not be matched to specific teachers in the 2010-11 testing period. SED officials report that this "linkage data" issue for 2011-12 tests has improved to cover from 75 to 80 percent of students, and will improve further next year. Another problem is that principals are questioning certain reported growth scores for teachers as not in line with what they might otherwise know to be their professional skills. Implementing, monitoring and improving the systems will be on ongoing part of the process for educators at the state and local level. In the meanwhile, parents will be able to access the evaluations of their children's teachers. The manner and means through which parents voice their displeasure or approval will be something to watch going forward.

Cuomo's Education Reform Commission Governor Andrew Cuomo's Education Reform Commission has been busy conducting regional public hearings to gather input from local stakeholders as well as the public on a variety of topics including: the overall structure of New York's Public Education System, Teacher and Principal Quality and District Leadership, and

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student achievement and Family Engagement. At a recent hearing in Orange County, the focus was on two very different issues. First, discussion concerned the effects of shrinking state aid and the new property-tax-levy cap and the growing disparity between rich and poor school districts. Second, hearing participants assailed the state's new teacher and principal evaluation system for being costly, rushed and ineffective. The Commission comes to Long Island on October 11th where they will convene at SUNY College at Old Westbury from 10am til 1pm.



Growth Scores & Next Steps SED distributed growth scores for Grades 4-8 ELA and Math teachers and principals based on the 2011-12 school year. These scores take into account a variety of factors including prior academic history, student poverty, ELLs, students with disabilities and test measurement variance. An SED press release acknowledged most districts will not be using these scores for evaluations as the new evaluation law will not be fully implemented until next year. Given the extremely tight APPR related deadlines, this seems to be particularly good news. In the interim, test scores can be used to improve instruction. Growth measures represent one of multiple measures that contribute to teacher and principal effectiveness and account for 20 percent of an educator's evaluation. The remaining 80 percent include locally selected options.

In October, SED plans to make available to Districts and Individual educators the secure online reporting system with growth scores. At this time Districts are to provide SED with overall quality ratings and composite and subcomponent scores based on evaluation results as applicable. In December, SED plans to provide overall quality ratings and composite evaluation scores as well as subcomponents information including State-provided growth score aggregated as required under disclosure law, with personally identifiable information protected.

APPR RESOURCES

- [APPR Guidance Document](http://engageny.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/APPR-Field-Guidance.pdf) (Updated August 13, 2012). <http://engageny.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/APPR-Field-Guidance.pdf>
- [Model APPR Plans](http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/teachers-leaders/plans/home.html). An alphabetical list of Model APPR Plans for various school districts throughout New York State can be found at <http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/teachers-leaders/plans/home.html>
- [Engage NY](http://engageny.org/). Contains information on APPR, Common Core Standards. <http://engageny.org/>

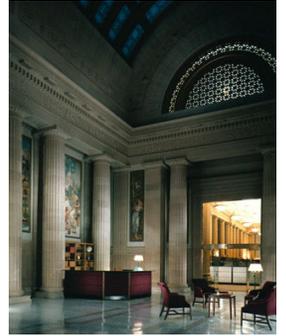


EDUCATION QUOTE... "Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence." [Robert Frost](#) (1874 - 1963)



NYS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- CSE Parent Member Change** Effective August 1 the additional parent member of the CSE would be a required member if requested by the parent, the student or the district in writing at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. The parents must receive proper written notice of their right to have an additional parent member attend any meeting along with a statement, prepared by NYSED, explaining the role of having the additional parent attend the meeting. NYSED has revised the State's required meeting notice to include this statement.
- IEP Electronic Access** Effective August 1, 2012 school districts are allowed the option of giving teachers, related service providers and other providers access to a student's IEP electronically. If the district's policy provides such access, the policy must also ensure the individuals responsible for IEP implementation are notified and trained on how to access such IEPs electronically. Public hearings have been scheduled to conform the Commissioner's Regulations with these legislative changes.



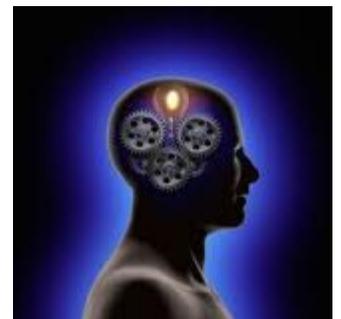
US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- 'Blue Ribbon' Schools Recognized Include Four on Long Island.**
 U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recognized 269 schools as National 'Blue Ribbon' schools for academic achievement. The list included four Long Island schools; Timber Point Elementary School in East Islip, Cantiague Elementary School in Jericho, Mount Sinai Middle School in Mount Sinai, and South Woods Middle School in Syosset.
- Feds Issue Restraint & Seclusion Resource Document** USDOE has issued a Restraint & Seclusion Document outlining 15 guiding principles to help schools ensure safe & healthy learning environments. NYSED indicates current regulations and guidance governing behavioral interventions are consistent with the federal guidance. The federal guidance document can be found at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/seclusion/restraints-and-seclusion-resources.pdf>



BEHAVIOR in EDUCATION

DIGNITY ACT The Dignity Act signed into law September 2010 took effect July 1, 2012. The law provides that no student shall be subjected to harassment or discrimination by employees or students on school property or at a school function based on their actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex. Boards of Education are required to amend their codes of conduct to comply with the dignity act. Dignity Act information and resources are available at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/>. See also www.pbis.org for technical assistance, and <http://casel.org/> for SEL programs.



NEW NYC DISCIPLINARY RULES

Criticized by some as a quick fix to get suspension numbers down, new disciplinary rules went into effect which provide NYC public school students can no longer be suspended for one-time, low-level infractions. Further, the youngest pupils can be suspended only for 5 days for midlevel offenses, down from 10 days. Under the new code, students in all grades will no longer face any form of suspension for transgressions like being late for school, being absent without an excuse, talking back to teachers, or carrying prohibited items like cell phones. However, they can still be punished in other ways, including being prevented from participating in extracurricular activities or being sent to the principal's office. Students repeatedly removed from the classroom for low-level offenses can still, in certain circumstances, be suspended. The executive director of the NYCLU stated "this change in the disciplinary code would result in more students in the classroom, more often, and teachers having the mandate to discipline students with positive educational approaches." Some parents have blasted the new rules saying that schools should have the option to suspend students if their behavior interferes with the education of others.

UNIFORM DRESS CODE in ROOSEVELT HS

Roosevelt High School has established a uniform dress code that requires a common color and style of clothing. U.S. Statistics indicate the portion of public schools requiring uniform dress has increased from 12% in 1999-2000 to 19% in 2009-2010. While there is little evidence that dress codes increase academic performance, research indicates uniform dress codes can help improve

student behavior and attendance. Dress codes are more prevalent in private schools, charter schools, and some public elementary schools.

BUS MONITOR VIDEO GOES VIRAL The cellphone video of 68-year old Karen Klein's merciless taunting at the hands of students went viral on YouTube resulting in a flood of donations, and the suspension of four 7th grade boys from school for a year. In tight budget times, many districts have made cuts in staffing bus monitors leaving school buses unsupervised. The Karen Klein video may serve as a social emotional learning opportunity to be incorporated into Dignity Act activities by interested school districts.

SHY STUDENTS ENTERING KINDERGARTEN at DISADVANTAGE

A study published on the Journal of School Psychology found children who displayed shy, withdrawn behavior early in the preschool years not only started out with the lowest academic skills, but were also the slowest to make academic progress throughout their kindergarten year. This places shy kids at risk of "disappearing" in the classroom and may at an academic disadvantage compared to more outgoing students. In the University of Miami study, teachers assessed the emotional and behavioral characteristics and the academic progress of each child at three points during the school year. The study also found that older kids and girls tended to be better adjusted, exhibited fewer behavioral problems and had higher levels of social literacy, language and math skills.



LEGAL UPDATE

CUOMO VETOES SPECIAL EDUCATION BILL Governor Cuomo vetoed legislation that would have required CSEs to consider a child’s “home environment and family background” when deciding special education placement. Advocates argued that disabled students are often better off in private sectarian schools that match their religious and cultural backgrounds, and that those factors should play into CSE placement decisions. In his veto, Cuomo wrote the law “constitutes an overly broad and ambiguous mandate that would result in incalculable significant additional costs to be borne by every school district and taxpayer.” Cuomo continued stating that the , “proposal would significantly expand the scope of private placements and public reimbursement of private tuition costs at great taxpayer expense.”



SMOKING NEAR SCHOOLS NOW ILLEGAL Two new bills were signed into law to protect New York’s children from the harmful effects of cigarettes. The new laws include provisions that prohibit smoking within 100 feet of the entrances or exits of any public or private schools, and also prohibit the sale of electronic cigarettes to individuals under the age of 18.

SECOND CIRCUIT SPECIAL EDUCATION CASES Perry Zirkel posted on NYSED’s website a list of 2nd Circuit and New York court decisions from 1995 to the present under the IDEA and Section 504/ADA which can be found at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/dueprocess/NYand2dCirCaseLaw-PZ.pdf> .

CLINICAL CORNER

DSM-5 CLOSED FOR FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT The final commenting period on the draft 5th edition of the DSM closed as of June 15, 2012. What’s new? Some of the latest changes include:

- Communication Disorders now include two diagnoses – **Language Disorders** and **Speech Disorders** – each with appropriate subtypes to cover all seven of the disorders previously proposed for categorization.
- Changes have been made in specific criteria for some of the disorders, including those in the **Neurocognitive Disorders** and the **Anxiety Disorders** chapters.
- A proposed **Cultural Formulation Interview** for DSM-5, which includes specific questions for clinicians to use in order to more effectively assess cultural aspects of psychiatric diagnosis.



DSM-IV was last revised in 2000. Final changes to the DSM-5 will be made through the end of 2012, with final publication due in May 2013.



Crossword Puzzle - Special Education on Long Island

Across

- 1 Alien ships
 5 Given to relieve the poor
 9 What a clock does
 14 Rarity with 'avis'
 15 Security interest
 16 Roman unit of length
 17 Monkeys
 18 Fed Sp Ed Law (acronym)
 19 Rosie does this
 20 Preferable environ. in Sp Ed
 23 'Off' opposite
 24 ___ Alamos
 25 Dorothy's pal was made of this
 29 It supports sails
 31 This in Spanish, masc.
 35 Tea water is usually this
 36 Jolson namesake
 37 S. Weaver 2009 epic
 39 NY Governor LaGuardia
 40 ___ be it!
 41 Long period of time
 42 Student's writing assign.
 43 You familiar, en espanol
 44 Calcaneus bone
 46 Remover utensil
 50 PDQ
 54 Shafted projectile
 55 Seminal courses, um?
 61 ___ Khayyam
 62 Autos
 63 Italian City
 64 Pre-military?
 65 Basic unit of matter
 66 Causation-study prefix
 67 Crosby, Stills & _____

68 NBC Nightly

69 Iowa is one

Down

- 1 Russian sea
 2 Sp Ed acronym
 3 Minerals
 4 Back-talk
 5 Foreigner
 6 Tops
 7 Introduce
 8 Facial expressions
 9 Turkish (French, plural)
 10 You must be this to win it
 11 Roman Numeral; 206
 12 Ukraine capital
 13 Satisfy fully, fill to excess
 21 Sp Ed Supreme Court case
 22 Small quantities
 25 Unassailable
 26 Head injuries in Sp Ed
 27 LI School District, abbrev.
 28 _____ grievance
 29 Germinated cereal grain
 30 Baseball brothers last name
 31 Per, abbrev.
 32 Pilot
 33 Vetch seed
 34 Of the mouth
 38 Term for unseen commentator, abbrev.

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| 64 | | | | | 65 | | | | | 66 | | | | |
| 67 | | | | | 68 | | | | | 69 | | | | |

- 44 South shore Nassau County School District
 45 Rainforest bird
 46 Optical elements that refract light
 47 Part of a circle
 48 Cosmetics
 50 Oak generator
 51 South Pacific island
 52 I smell this, plural
 53 Freshwater fish
 54 Bow and _____
 57 Federal Reserve's Prime _____
 58 Sonata Arctica album name
 59 Irrelevant question, legally
 60 Love is for this (Cole Porter song)

Solution to Puzzle – <http://blueseaeeducation.com/educational-resources/newsletter/>

DISCLAIMER. The Blue Sea Educator Newsletter is provided for informational purposes only, and is not legal advice and not warranted or guaranteed. Readers are cautioned not to rely on this information. Because laws change over time and in different jurisdictions, it is imperative that you consult an attorney in your area regarding legal matters.

For Educational Consulting & Related Services Placement contact Blue Sea Educational Consulting at 631-368-BLUE or info@blueseaeeducation.com

