In July 2019, Chancellor Betty A. Rosa and the Board of Regents announced they will create a Blue Ribbon Commission to review the State’s high school graduation measures and reaffirm what it means to obtain a diploma in New York State.

The Commission will examine what a State diploma should signify to ensure educational excellence and equity for every student in New York State. The Commission will consider whether adding other measures of learning and achievement could better serve New York’s diverse student population as indicators of what they know and if they are career and college ready.

Regional Meetings Help Inform the Work of the Blue Ribbon Commission

To help inform that work of the Blue Ribbon Commission, the Board of Regents and the State Education Department are gathering input from many partners, including parents, educators, administrators, school support staff, representatives of higher education, the business community, and the general public. To gather this feedback, regional meetings are being held across the state through April 2020.

At each regional meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to break into smaller groups to discuss and provide feedback to the Department on five guiding questions:

1. What do we want students to know and to be able to do before they graduate?
2. How do we want students to demonstrate such knowledge and skills?
3. How do you measure learning and achievement (as it pertains to the answers to #2 above) to ensure they are indicators of high school completion?
4. How can measures of achievement accurately reflect the skills and knowledge of our special populations, such as students with disabilities and English language learners?
5. What course requirements or examinations will ensure that students are prepared for college and careers or civic engagement?

Board of Regents Chancellor Betty A. Rosa: “As we begin the process of reviewing what a diploma in New York State should look like, it is imperative that we gather input from as many stakeholders and interested parties as possible and examine what is working in other states. I look forward to receiving and considering their valuable input throughout this important and essential conversation. Through these efforts, we will help ensure that every child in New York state has equitable access to a high-quality education.”
Draft Timeline for the Review of Graduation Measures in NYS

**Phase I: Information Gathering & Learning**
- **November 2019 to April 2020:**
  - Literature review of research and practices in other states. Report to Board in Spring 2020
  - Regional workgroups hold meetings beginning in January to gather feedback from across the state.
- **Summer 2020:** Compile Regional Meeting feedback.
- **Summer 2020:** Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) and draft meeting schedule.

**Phase II: Blue Ribbon Commission**
- **September 2020:** Commission’s first meeting – the BRC convenes and defines the scope of its work.
- **October 2020:** Blue Ribbon Commission second meeting to identify priority areas and a framework for moving forward. Establish sub-groups for priority areas.
- **November 2020 – February 2021:** Sub-groups meet.
- **March 2021 – May 2021:** Sub-groups develop proposed recommendations.
- **Summer – Fall 2021:** Sub-groups advance recommendations to the BRC.
- **Fall 2021 - Winter 2022:** The BRC finalizes recommendations and a report is prepared.

**Phase III: Regents Discussion**
- **Winter 2022:** The Blue Ribbon Commission’s final report is presented to the Board of Regents for consideration.

"Let me be clear: this effort is not simply about changing our graduation standards. It’s about providing different avenues – equally rigorous – for kids to demonstrate that they are ready to graduate, with a meaningful diploma. It’s about ensuring that what students are learning is relevant to them and useful to society. It’s about creating school communities and establishing relationships, where educators, parents and students all work together to improve teaching and learning.”

- Chancellor Rosa

**Stay Informed**

To allow for a transparent and meaningful information gathering process, NYSED has created a Graduation Measures website which will feature updates throughout the process. From the site, you can submit public comments via email and subscribe to receive email updates.

- **Website:** [www.nysed.gov/grad-measures](http://www.nysed.gov/grad-measures)
- **Public Comment email:** GradMeasures@nysed.gov
- **Hashtag:** #NYSGradMeasures on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.