

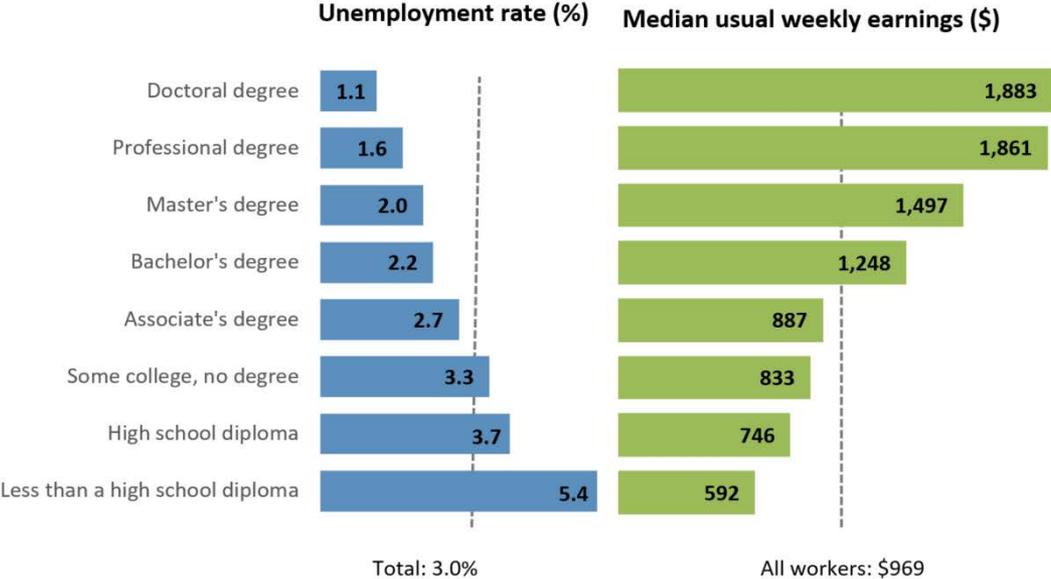


Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Higher Education

Dr. Betty A. Rosa, Interim Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York

Why College Access & Completion Matters – Earnings and Unemployment

Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2019



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Access and Opportunity Programs

The Regents encourage the Legislature to maintain 2020-21 enacted funding levels for the following opportunity programs:

- ❖ Liberty Partnerships Program (\$18.4M)
- ❖ Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)(\$35.5M)
- ❖ Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)(\$15.8M)
- ❖ Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)(\$12M)
 - The state's higher education opportunity programs are available for students attending public and private colleges throughout the state.
 - These programs currently serve over 40,000 underrepresented and disadvantaged students.
 - These programs are effective at increasing graduation rates.

Increase Access to Higher Education –

Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)



- HEOP provides financial assistance, pre-freshman summer programs, remedial coursework, tutoring and counseling to students attending independent colleges.
- **Students in this program do not meet traditional academic criteria when admitted to college, however, they typically earn degrees at rates that equal or exceed general admission students.**
- HEOP serves over 4,800 students through 50 programs.

Increase Access to Higher Education – *Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)*

- STEP provides academic enrichment in science and mathematics with the purpose of increasing the number of historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged high school students prepared to enter college and improve their participation rates in mathematics, science, technology, health-related fields, and the licensed professions.
- STEP serves over 12,500 students through 60 programs.



Increase Access to Higher Education – *Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)*

- CSTEP provides academic enrichment and research experience in STEM content areas to increase the number of historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged undergraduate and graduate students who complete programs of study that lead to professional licensure and careers in mathematics, science, technology, and health-related careers.
- CSTEP currently serves over 8,000 students through 55 programs.



Increase Access to Higher Education – *Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP)*

- LPPs are partnerships between institutions of higher education, schools and community-based organizations that offer comprehensive pre-collegiate/dropout prevention programs to middle and high school students.
- LPPs provide tutoring, counseling, college and career exploration, crisis intervention and other supportive services to over 15,000 students in 46 programs across New York State.
- LPP has demonstrated value in positively impacting youth at risk of dropping out of school.



Increase Access to Higher Education – *Enhancing Supports & Services for Individuals with Disabilities*

- ❖ SED requests **\$7 million in new state funds** to provide much-needed enhanced supports and services to over 77,000 identified individuals with disabilities in New York State degree granting colleges and universities.

Funding would be authorized, for one or more of the following purposes to:

- supplement funding for supports and accommodations of individuals with disabilities;
- support summer college preparation programs to assist individuals with disabilities transitioning to college, and prepare them to navigate campus facilities and systems;
- provide full and part-time faculty and staff with disability training; and
- improve the identification process of individuals with disabilities and enhance data collection capabilities.

Increase Access to Higher Education – *Funding the Expansion of the Readers Aid Program*

- ❖ SED requests an **additional \$706,000** to increase Readers Aid Program funding, from the current \$294,000 annual level to \$1 million, to enable the program to provide grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000 to serve approximately 400 students per year.
 - The Readers Aid Program provides funding to colleges and universities to use on behalf of students who are blind, deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing. Funding is used to help meet the costs of note-takers, readers, and interpreter services.
 - In the 2020-21 academic year, over 263 students from 26 colleges and universities received Readers Aid funding. However, the current annual appropriation for this program is insufficient to meet the needs of the increased number of eligible students and cannot support the increase in annual reimbursement levels.

Bridge to College and Careers Pilot Program

2021-22 \$3M Budget Request

Enable Out-of-School Youth and Adults to Prepare for Postsecondary Study and Careers



- ❖ SED requests **\$3 million in new state funds** to establish a pilot program to enable out-of-school youth and adults to obtain critical basic skills and high school equivalency diplomas as well as industry-recognized credentials for employment or a college degree.

These programs would include:

- Career exploration and career assessment;
- Relationships with employers and colleges;
- Apprenticeships and internships; and
- Job placement, retention and advancement.

Licensed Professionals Serve and Protect the Public

Access to Competent Professional Services

- Licensing is inextricably linked to education.
- The professions are at the core of the state's economy.
- Licensees must be qualified and competent to provide health, design, or business services – professional practice affects all New Yorkers.

There are nearly 1 million licensed professionals registered to practice in New York.

Public Protection Through Professional Oversight and Discipline

The annual responsibilities of the Office of the Professions include:

- Hundreds of thousands of practice interpretations and clarifications.
- Investigation and prosecutions across the state.
- Implementation of Enforcement Actions.

2020 Disciplinary Actions:

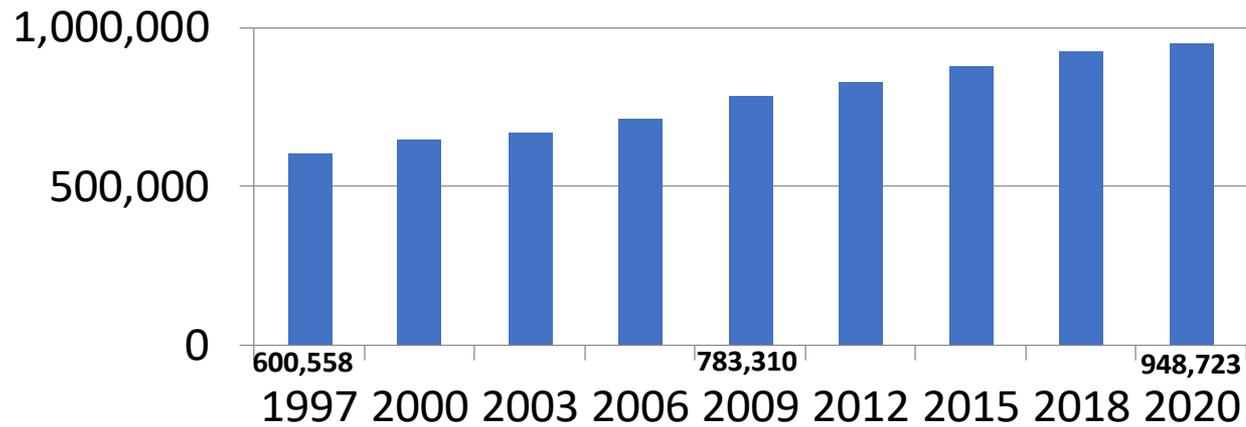
- 432 Regents Actions
- 22 Cease and Desist Orders
- \$388,000 in Regents Fines
- 432 Suspensions/Revocations
- 136 Corrective Action Required Letters
- 21 Administrative Warnings
- 6 Moral Character Final Actions
- 239 Violations Committee Resolutions
- 7 Restoration Applications Considered

Illegal Practice Cases Opened:	120
2020 Compliance Agreements:	201
2020 Cease and Desist Letters:	22
Pending Criminal Cases:	85

2020 Office of the Professions Data

Operational Responsibility	2020
New licenses issued	58,127
Registrations processed	311,543
Pharmacies, manufacturers, re-packers, wholesalers and outsourcing facilities registered	8,896
Pharmacy inspections conducted	689
Disciplinary investigations completed	4,226
Professional education programs completed	424
Individual reviews of education from non-registered programs	18,180
New filings for professional corporations	5,397
Candidates taking OP-developed licensing exams	1,848
Email/telephone inquiries answered	Over 1,000,000

Growing Numbers of Licensed & Registered Professionals



OP Modernization Project:

Enhanced Services for Licensed Professionals

- As demand for licensing has grown, improvements have been made to the licensure process.
- In 2020, the Office of the Professions' website traffic nearly doubled receiving **more than 18 million** individual visits, leading to **more than 41 million** page views. We continue to update all Department web pages to increase accessibility and readability for customers.
- Our most popular feature is the online verification of licenses, which received more than **25 million** visits in 2020.
- The hashtag #ProfessionProfile and #PathsToTheProfessions are used in social media by the Department to inform the public and licensees about professions and public protection.
- Online registration renewal rates are **nearing 95 percent**.



OP Modernization:

Enhanced Services for Licensed Professionals

- OP's Modernization plan is underway to replace our antiquated computer system with a robust custom-built electronic licensing system, which will include enhancements to the customer experience and improvements to back-office processes, over the next 3 years.
 - Initial online applications are now available in all 50+ professions, enabling applicants to submit documents and pay electronically.
 - An enhanced “self-service” FAQ database and an updated, fully accessible website is under development which will enable customers to find information quickly and easily.
 - A new customer ticketing system is being implemented which will streamline the routing of inquiries.
- ❖ **2021-2022 Budget Request – Authorizes the Department, within Capital Appropriations, at no cost to the state, to use the \$7.8 million of existing revenue in 2021-22 to continue building the new electronic licensing and document management system along with enhancing customer service tools.**



Enhanced Discipline Authority of the Licensed Professions- *Regents Legislative Priority*

- ❖ SED supports legislation that would enhance SED's disciplinary authority over all licensed professions it oversees by:
 - Authorizing the Commissioner or his/her designee, after an investigation and a recommendation by a professional conduct officer, to order a temporary suspension of practice privileges of a licensee or registered entity when there is an imminent danger to the health and/or safety of the public;
 - Requiring all licensed professionals to report to SED moral character issues upon application for licensure; and
 - Requiring, at minimum, that all licensed professionals report to SED any record of a conviction of a crime in a timely manner.

2019-20 Legislation:

- A.1184-A (Glick)/ S.6240-A (Stavisky)- Relates to mandatory reporting of certain convictions, professional misconduct and/or adverse employment actions.

Implementation of Critical New Laws

The Professions

New laws impacting the Professions were enacted in 2020, including:

- ❖ **Chapter 110 (Paulin/Hoylman):** Authorizes pharmacists to administer an approved COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ **Chapter 124 (L. Rosenthal/Metzger):** Allows for audio-only or video-only communication under the definition of telehealth services and allows such services to be eligible for reimbursement.
- ❖ **Chapter 180 (McDonald/Stavisky):** Provides chapter amendments to Chapter 517 of the Laws of 2019 authorizing ophthalmologists and optometrists to supervise trained personnel to instill dilating eye drops and associated anesthetic eye drops to the surface of patients' eyes.
- ❖ **Chapter 182 (Glick/Stavisky):** Authorizes the Department to renew limited and provisional permits for certain licensed professionals for an additional 12 months for good cause shown due to the state disaster emergency by the Governor.
- ❖ **Chapter 260 (Englebright/Stavisky):** Relates to continuing education for professional engineers, land surveyors and professional geologists.
- ❖ **Chapter 328 (Gottfried/Rivera):** Relates to requiring parity in the standards of dental telehealth services.



Thank You.

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