



NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION EDUCATOR PREPARATION NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

The Office of Higher Education (OHE) newsletter describes the current and upcoming activities related to higher education, with a particular focus on the preparation of educators. This newsletter, past newsletters, and a subscription link are available online on the [OHE website](#).

BOARD OF REGENTS MARCH ITEMS

School Building Leader Assessment Safety Net. The Board of Regents [adopted a regulatory amendment](#) to create a safety net for the two-part School Building Leader (SBL) Assessment. For the safety net, candidates may take Part One of either the Revised (Sept. 2013) SBL Assessment or Revised (May 2019) SBL Assessment, and may take Part Two of either the Revised (Sept. 2013) SBL Assessment or Revised (May 2019) SBL Assessment, until August 31, 2024. The August 31, 2024 date is two years after September 1, 2022, the date by which all SBL programs must be aligned with the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSELs).

REVISED SCHOOL BUILDING LEADER ASSESSMENT

It is anticipated that the [Revised \(May 2019\) School Building Leader \(SBL\) Assessment](#) will become operational on April 17, 2021. The [assessment framework](#) is available on the [NYSTCE website](#) to assist candidates and SBL programs.

World Languages. The Board of Regents adopted the revised New York State Learning Standards for Languages Other Than English (LOTE), which have been renamed the New York State Learning Standards for World Languages. The [memo to the Regents](#) and the [presentation to the Board](#) provide information about the Standards, including a description of the revision process and the implementation timeline. The [World Languages Standards and Guidelines website](#) also includes links to themes and topics, as well as proficiency ranges and performance indicators. The Standards will be fully implemented by September 2028. In addition, the Department [proposed a regulatory amendment](#) to change the term “Languages Other Than English” and “Foreign Languages” throughout the regulations, including the certification and teacher preparation program regulations, to “World Languages Other Than English” or “World Languages”, as appropriate.

Internship Certificate. Candidates who are enrolled in a registered teacher, school leadership, or school counseling preparation program that includes an internship experience, and have completed at least one-half of the semester-hour requirements for the program, are eligible for the Internship certificate. The Department [proposed a regulatory amendment](#) to allow candidates who are enrolled in a registered school psychology program to also be eligible for the Internship certificate.

EXTENSION OF DISTANCE EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is extending the current distance education flexibility for institutions of higher education (IHEs) until the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. This extension permits institutions to continue to offer distance education courses in programs during the 2021-2022 academic year, without triggering the need to register the programs in the distance education format, even if the 50% threshold for registration in the distance education format will be reached. As the end of the 2021-2022 academic year approaches, NYSED will make a determination concerning the extension or revision of this flexibility policy, depending upon the status of the pandemic at that time.

Institutions are reminded that, regardless of delivery modalities or formats, all academic programs offered by NYS degree-granting institutions are required to meet all NYS program registration standards, including all regulatory requirements related to clinical and other experiential and laboratory program components. Institutions are further reminded of the necessity to continue to comply with all requirements, including, but not limited to, those concerning the offering of programs via distance education, established by their accrediting agencies, the U.S. Department of Education, and the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) for postsecondary distance education.

NYSED is finalizing an expedited application for the addition of the distance education format to new and existing registered programs and will inform institutions when the application has been posted on the Department's website. In the interim, please use the [existing program change application forms](#). Questions should be directed to: ocueinfo@nysed.gov. Please see the [memo to the field](#) for additional information.

NEW YORK STATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS (NYSTCE) TEST DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Recruiting Educators for Test Development Committees. The Department is seeking educators to participate in the following committees that will meet in 2021. Higher education professionals, including both higher education educator preparation faculty and higher education faculty who have content expertise, are encouraged to apply for the committees by visiting the [Educator Involvement Opportunities webpage](#) and completing the [online application](#).

- Standard Setting for the revised School Building Leader Assessment
- Framework Review for the new Computer Science Content Specialty Test
- Framework Review for the new School Counselor Content Specialty Test
- Framework Review for the revised Physical Education Content Specialty Test
- Item Review for the revised Business and Marketing Content Specialty Test
- Item Review for the revised Bilingual Education Assessments

SAFER SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES BEST PRACTICES CLEARINGHOUSE

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) is launching the “Safer Schools and Campuses Best Practices Clearinghouse” that will include resources that target the needs of students, teachers, faculty, and staff in early childhood programs, PreK-12 schools, and colleges and universities in three main areas:

- **Safe and Healthy Environments:** School and campus approaches to implementing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommended mitigation strategies and preparing for and sustaining in-person operations safely.
- **Providing Supports to Students:** School and campus strategies to meet student social, emotional, mental health, academic, financial, and other needs, including access to food and other basic needs.
- **Teacher, Faculty, and Staff Well-Being, Professional Development, and Supports:** School and campus strategies to address the social, emotional, health, and other needs of teachers, faculty, and staff.

The USDOE welcomes lessons learned and best practices on these topics from the field for consideration for the Clearinghouse, including those with an educational equity focus. Information about submissions and the Clearinghouse is available on the [Clearinghouse website](#).

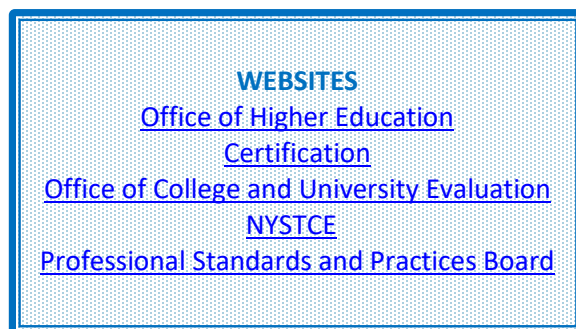
The Clearinghouse will have a “Lessons from the Field” webinar series that will highlight lessons learned and best practices that can help schools and districts identify opportunities to best utilize American Rescue Plan funds to meet their unique needs. The webinar series will launch on March 31.

TEACHING IN REMOTE/HYBRID LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

As highlighted in last month's OHE Newsletter, Teaching in Remote/Hybrid Learning Environments (TRLE) is a federally funded program to increase the capacity of educators in New York State to improve remote/hybrid instruction. The initial goal of TRLE is rapid deployment of professional learning to the field. Our 14 Level 1 Center partners (including the state's 12 Regional Information Centers, the New York City Department of Education, and Yonkers City School District) are responsible for providing all New York State educators with training and support on the [six core competencies](#) identified in the grant.

We are excited to report that Level 1 Centers have begun training educators throughout New York. A [calendar of professional learning experiences \(PLEs\)](#) can be found on the [TRLE website](#). The PLEs are available to New York State educators at no cost. A registration link is included in each of the events on the calendar. Please contact us at rethink@nysed.gov if you have questions regarding registration.

Professional learning is at the heart of TRLE. Over the next couple of years, the goals of the program will focus on creating a Quality Remote/Hybrid Teaching Framework and thousands of hours of professional learning and services. TRLE will also partner with institutions of higher education to connect lessons learned to pre-service and in-service educator supports. To keep up-to-date with TRLE, please sign up for our listserv on the right side of our [TRLE website homepage](#).



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