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 OCTOBER ITEMS**

**Office of College and University Evaluation Overview and Update.** Emily Sutherland, Director of the Office of College and University Evaluation (OCUE), and Bill Murphy, Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education, presented an overview of OCUE’s scope of work, along with an update of that work. Director Sutherland noted there has been a notable increase in educator preparation program registration actions in 2023 due to the following regulatory changes, reflecting the Department’s commitment to address teacher shortages and diversity, equity, and inclusion:

- School Building Leader – alignment with Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSELs)
- Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) requirement
- Literacy (All Grades) certification
- Students with Disabilities (All Grades) certification
- Changes to clinical experience requirements
- Indigenous Culture and Languages certification
- Changes to school counselor certification
- Residency programs/certificate

**Graduation Measures.** Dr. Angelique Johnson-Dingle, Deputy Commissioner for P-12 Instructional Support, and Dr. Santosha Oliver, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Standards and Instructional Programs, along with two members from the Board of Regents Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures, presented a comprehensive overview of the multi-year process the Blue Ribbon Commission engaged in to develop recommendations for changing New York State’s high school graduation requirements. A report detailing the Commission’s final recommendations is slated to be presented to the Board of Regents at its November meeting.

**NEW YORK STATE SELECTED FOR HUNT INSTITUTE’S THE PATH FORWARD TO TRANSFORM LITERACY INSTRUCTION**

In collaboration with the Literacy Academy Collective, New York State has been selected to participate in the third cohort of the Hunt Institute's The Path Forward for Teacher Preparation and Licensure in Early Literacy.

The NY Path Forward team, consisting of leaders from the New York State Education Department (NYSED); the NY State Legislature; the Governor’s office; leaders, deans, and faculty from higher education educator preparation programs; and community advocates, funders, and stakeholders from across the State, and led by a Steering Committee that includes Commissioner Rosa, New York State Board of Regents Chancellor Lester W. Young, Jr., State University of New York (SUNY) Chancellor John B. King, Jr., The City University of New York (CUNY) Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, and New York City Public Schools Chancellor David C.
Banks, will meet during 2024 to collaborate on developing a plan for embedding evidence-based reading instructional practices into teacher preparation programs ensuring that all NY State students learn to read.

**NYSED FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: SMART SCHOLARS EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL (SS-ECHS) PROGRAM**

The New York State Education Department has announced that it is seeking grant applications for the establishment of active partnerships between school districts and institutions of higher education (IHE) to provide an integrated high school and college curriculum and the academic and social supports the target student population needs to graduate from high school on time with a Regents diploma and at least 24 or up to 60 transferable college credits, at no cost to their families. This Funding Opportunity, RFP #GC23-015, will be posted to the ECHS webpage. All applications must be postmarked by December 5, 2023. For additional information, please review the full RFP document. A question-and-answer summary will be posted on or about November 14, 2023.

"SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED TO JOEY" CHILDHOOD TRAUMA FILM SCREENING

On Monday, October 16, at the NY State Museum NYSED hosted a film screening of “Something Terrible happened to Joey,” and held a panel discussion about childhood trauma. As a follow-up to that event, NYSED is sharing the following resources on the film and childhood trauma:

- The [Something Terrible Happened to Joey website](#).
- You can watch the film or share it with others.
- Educators can use the [Study Guide](#) to think through and discuss difficult issues surrounding trauma.
- The New York State [Trauma-Informed Network](#).
- New York State Office of Mental Health [988 Community Education and Awareness Toolkit](#).
- New York State Office of Children and Family Services [HEARS family line information](#).
- New York State Office of Children and Family Services [Family Resource and Opportunity Centers](#).
- The WNET Group’s [Student Mental Health Matters: A Toolkit for Educators](#).

**NYSATE/NYACTE CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

The 2023 [New York State Association of Teacher Educators (NYSATE)/New York Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (NYACTE)](#) Annual Fall Conference took place on October 25-27 in Saratoga Springs. It included presentations from New York State Education Department leaders and staff members. From the Office of Higher Education, Deputy Commissioner William Murphy gave the address at the Pre-conference plenary session. Jennifer Pendleton, Director of the Office of Teaching Initiatives, and (OTI) staff provided certification updates. Emily Sutherland, Director of the Office of College and University Evaluation, and staff shared information about navigating the program registration and revision process. Elena Bruno, Mentor Teacher Internship Program (MTIP) Coordinator, facilitated the panel: P-20 Approaches to Mentoring and Induction of New Teachers through NYSED’s Mentor Teacher Internship Program (MTIP) Grant.