



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

JANUARY 2022

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 JANUARY ITEMS

**School District Leader, School District Business Leader, and Transitional D Candidates.** The Board of Regents [adopted an emergency measure](#) to remove the requirement that school district leader (SDL) and school district business leader (SDBL) candidates must pass the SDL and SDBL assessment, respectively, to be considered a program completer and receive the institutional recommendation for Professional certification. The measure also removes the requirement that Transitional D candidates must pass the SDL assessment to receive the institutional recommendation for Transitional D certification. SDL and SDBL candidates continue to be required to pass the SDL and SDBL assessment, respectively, to earn Professional certification, and Transitional D candidates continue to be required to pass the SDL assessment to earn Transitional D certification. The new measures apply to all SDL and SDBL candidates, including candidates who completed all program requirements other than the assessment requirement in the past.

**Definition of University.** The Board of Regents [adopted a regulatory amendment](#) to revise the definition of “university” in New York State to read:

“University means a higher educational institution offering a range of registered undergraduate and graduate curricula in the liberal arts and sciences, including graduate programs registered in at least three of the following discipline areas: agriculture, biological sciences, business, education, engineering, fine arts, health professions, humanities, physical sciences and social sciences.”

An independent institution that wishes to change its legal name from “college” to “university” based upon this new definition should be aware of the following:

1. Name changes are accomplished through charter amendments, which should be submitted to NYSED’s Office of Counsel. Information on filing petitions for charter amendment is [available online](#).
2. Charter amendments that are recommended for approval by the Board of Regents are usually placed on a Regents meeting agenda within 2-3 months after they are submitted to NYSED’s Office of Counsel, though some take longer.
3. Charter amendments become effective as of the date that the Regents approve them, unless the petition for charter amendment includes, and the Regents approve, a request by the institution for a different effective date (e.g., 90 days from the date of approval or a date certain in the future taking into account the processing time).
4. Once the legal name of an institution has been changed, degree conferrals and other business should be conducted under the new legal name. Colleges should consider when they will be ready to implement the name change when they plan for the submission of the charter amendment petition.

**References to Institutional Accrediting Agencies.** In February 2020, the United States Department of Education (USDE) issued new regulations that eliminated the distinction between “regional” and “national” accrediting agencies. The Board of Regents [adopted a regulatory amendment](#) to replace references to regionally accredited institutions of higher education throughout the Rules of the Board of Regents and the Commissioner’s regulations with the phrase: “an institution of higher education that is accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized for this purpose by the United States Department of Education.”

**WEBSITES**  
[Office of Higher Education Certification](#)  
[Office of College and University Evaluation NYSTCE](#)  
[Professional Standards and Practices Board](#)

## **POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES REPORTS**

The Department posted the 2020-2021 New York State Higher Education – Total Postsecondary Enrollment Report on its [data website](#). This report shows fall degree credit enrollment counts reported by New York State institutions of higher education that are broken out by institution type (public and private), sector (SUNY, CUNY, Independent, and Proprietary), level (2-year and 4-year/Grad), and status (full-time and part-time) as well as undergraduates, first-professionals, graduates, all students, and first-time enrollees. The enrollment data for individual institutions can be found under the “Higher Education” menu on the [data website](#) and the [Higher Education Reports webpage](#). Some highlights in the data include:

- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, institutions were already experiencing a decline in enrollment from 2018-2019, which likely were worsened by the pandemic.
- Undergraduate enrollment experienced the largest decreases.

The Department also posted the 2020-2021 New York State Higher Education – Postsecondary Students with Disabilities Report on its [data website](#). This report shows counts of students who self-identified as having one or more disabilities, by category and sub-category of their disability and by type of program in which they were enrolled (Occupationally-Specific or other Degree-Credit). It also includes the number of staff who support students with disabilities. New York State institutions of higher education report these numbers to the Department. The data are broken out by institution type (public and private), sector (SUNY, CUNY, Independent, and Proprietary), and level (2-year and 4-year/Grad). The students with disabilities data for individual institutions can be found under the “Higher Education” menu on the [data website](#) and the [Higher Education Reports webpage](#). Some highlights in the data include:

- Counts of students with disabilities have steadily increased.
- The COVID-19 pandemic seems to have had only a slight impact on the count of students with disabilities enrolled. Slight decreases are seen for all sectors except the Independent institutions.

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### **NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

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**Chancellor:** Lester W. Young, Jr.  
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