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**

**Graduate Program Admissions Requirements.** The Department proposed a regulatory amendment to align the Commissioner’s regulations with recent changes to Education Law section 210-a regarding admission requirements for graduate-level teacher and educational leader programs. The changes removed the statutory requirement that candidates must have a minimum score on the graduate record examination or a substantially equivalent admission examination, as determined by an institution of higher education. In addition, the changes increased the percentage of candidates from any incoming class in a program who may be exempted from the admission requirements from 15% to 50%. Therefore, up to 50% of the candidates from any incoming class in a program can be exempt from the 3.0 undergraduate cumulative grade point average admission requirement based on the candidates’ demonstration of potential to positively contribute to the teaching profession or other extenuating circumstances pursuant to the Commissioner’s regulations.

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

**Revised Business and Marketing Content Specialty Test (CST) Study Guide.** The study guide for the revised Business and Marketing CST is available on the NYSTCE website. This revised CST will be operational in Fall 2022. The study guide supplements the test framework, which is also available through the above link.

**Recruiting Educators for Test Development Committees.** The Department is seeking educators to participate in the following committees that will meet in 2022.

- Item Review for the new School Counselor Content Specialty Test
- Standard Setting for the revised Business and Marketing Content Specialty Test

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 Participation Opportunities webpage and completing the online application.

**NASDTEC INTERSTATE AGREEMENT**

The Department signed the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement. NASDTEC provides information about the certification requirements in member states and jurisdictions for out-of-state applicants. Please note that the Interstate Agreement is not a collection of two-way agreements of reciprocal acceptance.
NYS NEXT GENERATION MATHEMATICS LEARNING STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION WEBINAR

To support educators with their implementation of the New York State Next Generation Mathematics Learning Standards, the Office of Curriculum and Instruction hosted a one-hour webinar earlier this month to present and review existing materials and resources designed for the standards transition. The presentation was recorded and will be published on the Office of Curriculum and Instruction’s mathematics website, which may be helpful for faculty in mathematics teacher preparation programs. For questions regarding this webinar, please email standards@nysed.gov.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WEBINAR ON STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TEACHER CANDIDATES

The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) is hosting a webinar on Thursday, April 7 from 3:00-4:00 PM on “Strengthening Partnerships Between States, School Districts, and Higher Education to Increase the Number of Teacher Candidates Prepared to Enter the Classroom and Provide Immediate Support to Schools.” During the webinar, USDE will:

- discuss the Department’s call to action for states, districts, and institutions of higher education to commit to using American Rescue Plan (ARP) and other federal COVID-19 relief funds to help address teacher shortages;
- share how federal aid and opportunities through the U.S. Department of Labor can and are being used to address teacher shortages and provide support to schools by establishing or scaling up teaching residency and apprenticeship programs; and
- hear from states increasing their investments in a diverse educator pipeline and from educator preparation programs at institutions of higher education that are partnering with districts to scale up their programs and leveraging their residency and apprenticeship programs to provide immediate support to schools.

Additional information about the webinar and the webinar registration form is available here. Individuals will be sent a Zoom link after they register.