**NYSED/BOR Updates Spring 2013**

**Excerpt from Ken Slentz March 2013 Memo on Transition to the Common Core**

* 2012-13 Grades 3-8 Assessments:
  + New York State, for the first time, will be reporting student grade-level expectations against a trajectory of college- and career-readiness as measured by tests fully reflective of the Common Core and, as a result, **the number of students who score at or above grade level expectations will likely decrease**.
  + The number of students meeting or exceeding Common Core grade-level expectations **should not necessarily be interpreted as a decline in student learning or as a decline in educator performance**. Instead, the results from these new assessments will give educators, parents, policymakers, and the public a more realistic picture of where students are on their path to being well prepared for the world that awaits them after they graduate from high school.
  + It is important to note that **no new districts will be identified as Focus Districts and no new schools will be identified as Priority Schools based on 2012-13 assessment results**.
  + We have consulted with the vendor that developed the State-provided growth model, and **we expect that the State-provided growth scores will result in similar proportions of educators earning each rating category (Highly Effective, Effective, Developing, and Ineffective) in 2012-13 compared to 2011-12**, despite the anticipated lower percentage of students who score at grade level against a trajectory of college- and career-readiness as measured by tests fully reflective of the Common Core.
  + We expect that **local policies and practices will balance the need for increased rigor against legitimate student expectations** for access to educational programs, including local promotion and admission policies.

**From Recent Board of Regents Meetings**

* SUNY and CUNY results on numbers and costs of remediation, retention and graduation rates were linked to K-12 performance on aspirational measures for ELA and Math and College and Career Readiness (74% graduation rate in NYS with only 34% meeting College and Career Readiness standards were cited.)
* The BOR reviewed proposed amendments to graduation options for students with disabilities in order to replace the IEP diploma. This measure is expected to go into effect in July 2013. The percentage of students a district graduates with this credential will face stricter expectations regarding their use of ESEA funding.