**SCDN Notes: May 2013**

**Ken Wagner**

**Associate Commissioner, Office of Curriculum, Assessment and Educational Technology**

Feedback on Grades 3-8 Assessments

* Gathered significant anecdotal data re: length of the assessment; will look to see how this actually impacted student performance and then make necessary adjustments
* Answer to criticism re: state making money for product placement - NO!
  + Made a statement early on that SED would be using authentic texts and authentic texts are published for a purpose.
  + Not unanticipated that products might be mentioned but money never exchanged hands
* Answer to complaint that those purchasing particular test prep materials would have an advantage (aka Pearson) - there was ONE instance of overlap on the over 50 passages across all the grades 3-8 assessments where it was previously published in Pearson material
* The Pearson people who do assessment are different from the Pearson people doing the publishing and they don’t even talk to one another
* NOTE: 100% overlap overall with the fact that the materials had already been published
* Fully intend to release a portion of the test items to give people a flavor of how the test works so that they can adjust instruction around approaching a test (in response to the complaint re: use of close reading strategies)
* will not release the entirety of the test because significant investment made into building up an item bank (remember we built from scratch - didn’t just modify)
* will release enough to protect the item bank so that can maintain the integrity of the bank but when the data is available for item analysis can use it with them

**Tests are Signals, Not the Curriculum:** **Curriculum and instruction reflect our real aspiration for students**

\*\*NYSED maintains that they did not require additional testing beyond the previously required state assessments.

Progress Reports on College and Career Readiness

NOTE: Not one single definition of “college and career ready”

* SED will begin to report multiple indicators of college and career readiness on low-stakes reports for districts and high schools.
* They will be designed for use by districts and schools to identify areas for improvement in the school's educational program to address students' readiness for college and careers.

**Updates from Curriculum and Instruction**

**Mary Cahill, Director of Curriculum & Instruction**

**Will Jaacks, Science Associate**

* ***“The ELA Modules that contain science are not science instruction!”***
* Final version of NGSS released on April 9, 2013 (located here: <http://www.nextgenscience.org/>)
* Anticipate making recommendation to BOR in September
  + Evaluation tool created with following criteria: Organization, Coherence, Clarity/Specificity, Content/Rigor
  + Will convert tool into a survey for the field

**John Svendsen & Sue Brockley, Math Associates**

* Timeline for release of modules:
  + P-5: 1st ½ by mid summer.
  + P-8: Full set by December
  + Alg 1: Full set by late summer
  + P-12: Full set (10-12) done by March 2014
* High School guidance memo is posted on the P-12 website with the exam schedule and which students should be taking which exams.

**Patricia Polan, Social Studies Associate**

* Survey issued to field on the Frameworks, in the process of making revisions
  + K-8 - ensuring content is developmentally appropriate and as clear as possible for common branch teachers who may not have as solid a background in SS
  + In Grade 4 - initial draft did not have local history but that will be there
  + 9-12: started with 12th grade with PIG and focus on “participation” - need the preparation to participate in civic life
  + Economics - including a component for financial literacy
  + working on the content specificity for 9-11; doing this in conjunction with assessment office
* Framework that will be released will be different enough that it will go through another public comment time (end of summer/early September) prior to taking to BOR (October is goal)
* Content Framework and Division of Global assessment is a “package deal” to BOR - who will make the final decision.  Money is still a factor to create two assessments (Grades 9 & 10)

**Erik Sweet, ELA Associate**

* Research paper proposal caused quite the discussion
  + Considering tying to a specific year/assessment rather than graduation requirement
  + We all conduct research whether we go to college or not (major purchase of house, car) and the standards clearly address it

**Updates from Assessment**

**Steven Katz, Office of Assessment**

New Assessments for 2013-14

* NYSITELL
  + New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners -- identify students who appear to be ELL... a memo will be out regarding the use of this assessment for ELLs.
  + It becomes part of the identification process of students who might be identified as ELL.
  + Will take over for LAB-R February 1, 2014
  + Piloting starting in August 2013, especially in districts with large ELL populations.
* Common Core ELA and Algebra I Regents
  + June 2014 [www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/math/ccmath/transitioncc.pdf](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/math/ccmath/transitioncc.pdf)

Scoring Rules for August Regents

* + Established Oct 2011 that teachers could not score any part of their own student responses on any state examination.  This began with January 2013.
  + The students August Regents exam must be scored by the required number of teachers, but CANNOT be scored by the student’s summer school teacher OR the student’s teacher from the school year.

3-8 ELA and Math Tests

* Feedback should be sent directly to him but should not refer to specifics of any assessment (security issue)
* Score will be available late July
  + Public Information will be available: [www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/press.html](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/press.html)
* Spring Field Testing
  + New Reference Sheets for Math – different than what was used in the 2013 operational tests