

# **Blue Ribbon Commission Updates**



**SCDN | June 2, 2023**

# NYS Graduation Measures Blue Ribbon Commission

Co-Chairs Vice Chancellor Finn & Regent Chin

Parent  
Advisory  
Committee

Steering Committee

Student  
Advisory  
Committee

## Subcommittee

Program Requirements and  
Learning Experiences

Chair Vice Chancellor Finn  
Regent Ferrer, member

## Subcommittee

Measurements and Assessment

Chair Regent Chin  
Regent Wills, member

# Goals for the Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures

## Short Term

- Understand current diploma requirements and various obstacles students across the state face; and
- Generate ThoughtExchange questions, to maintain stakeholder feedback throughout the process.

## Long Term

Develop recommendations to Board of Regents on what **measures of learning and achievement** will best serve New York's **diverse student population** as indicators of what they know and of their readiness for **college, career, and civic life**.

# Summary of BRC Meetings Dec-March

## December

- Current graduation requirements

## January

- Presentation of *Graduation Requirements and Measures* report
- Portrait of a Graduate / 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

## February

- Workforce Trends

## March

- Transition from High School to College



## May



- Graduation Measures
- Identifying Priority Areas



# ThoughtExchange





# ThoughtExchange Summary December

***What are the skills and abilities most needed by NY State graduates to be successful in their chosen post-secondary path?***

**Critical thinking and problem solving** It's important that workers can evaluate what they think and hear and that they have the ability to solve problems 4.6  ( 24  )

**graduates need to be able to communicate effectively, collaborate with others and think critically about relevant issues.** so that they are able to see differing view points, solve difficult problems and function as a productive member of society 4.5  ( 25  )

**Problem Solving/ Critical Thinking/ Strong writing/comprehension and disciplined work ethic.** In any given career path, problem solving, ability to think critically are foremost in personal and professional success. 4.5  ( 24  )

# ThoughtExchange Summary January

***What opportunities, experiences, and courses should be available to students in High School that align with their needs, dreams, and career exploration? Which of those should be mandatory?***

**A course called or similar to Career & Financial Management.** High schoolers need to learn about how to budget, taxes and salaries as well as career options and what is required for those careers. Some schools have AVID classes.

4.4  ( 29  )  
Ranked #1 of 2300

**Personal Finance** This will carry forward into everyone's life, and students should have a working knowledge of debt, investing and spending.

4.4  ( 29  )  
Ranked #2 of 2300

**Financial literacy should be required.** Students need to understand finances, taxes, inflation, credit, etc to be successful adults.

4.4  ( 28  )  
Ranked #3 of 2300



# ThoughtExchange Summary February

*Foundational skills, like initiative, time management, and collaboration, are shown to prepare students for school, college, career, civic engagement, and life, and are priorities of the business world. How can these skills be fostered and encouraged in K-12 education?*

**Internships, apprenticeships, work-based learning opportunities** Applying learning empowers students to be leaders and better understand that their learning matters and is relevant

4.2  (33 )  
Ranked #1 of 757

**More real world curriculum. Less emphasis on standardized testing. How a student does on a Regents exam has no real world applicability.** Students always ask, "when am I going to use this?" and it seems to be getting inherently more difficult to answer.

4.2  (33 )  
Ranked #2 of 757

**These skills are often not taught, as regents are the main focus. I would like to see alternative, hands-on real world graduation pathways.** The current Regents pathway is not preparing our students for life after high school, especially if they are not attending college.

4.2  (31 )  
Ranked #3 of 757



# Parent and Student Advisories

155 Parent Applicants (20 parents per session)

84 Student Applicants (10 students per session)

Representative from across the state

Facilitated by steering committee members

Meetings are taking place between April 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup>



# School Visits

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- innovative practices
- leaders in student engagement and deeper learning
- break the mold of traditional high school experience
- schools that serve marginalized populations
- project-based learning, apprenticeships with industry partners, early college high school, etc.

# July 2023 Convening



July 25<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup>



Presentation of  
comprehensive  
analysis of qualitative  
data

ThoughtExchange  
questions  
Student and Parent  
Advisories



BRC members will meet in their  
respective committees and begin  
mapping out final  
recommendations

**What  
questions do  
you have?**

