

# Update on Regionalization

Kenneth R. Bossert, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
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**GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*Where Discovery Leads to Greatness*

# Links to District Correspondence Sent on Regionalization

- [October 28, 2024: Superintendent Letter](#)
- [November 1, 2024: Superintendent Letter](#)
- [November 6, 2024: Board of Education Letter](#)





# Definition of Terms to Assist in Understanding

**NYSED:** New York State Education Department (as a public school in NYS, we are are legally obligated to comply with Commissioner's Regulations)

**BOCES:** Board of Cooperative Educational Services

**District Superintendent:** Regional Representative of the Commissioner of Education (Nassau BOCES Superintendent)

**Role of BOCES:** To provide regional shared services to component districts.

Examples include:

- Vocational Training
- Special Education Settings
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Certain Clerical Functions
- Etc.

This is an example of regionalization. GNPS receives a small amount of additional State Aid when some BOCES services are used.

# What is Regionalization?



- The New York State Department of Education has launched a regionalization initiative to improve educational equity and operational efficiency.
- The initiative was introduced as an Emergency Regulation, adopted on September 9, 2024, to address educational disparities and fiscal challenges.
- The regulation is currently classified as an emergency measure, with plans for permanent adoption in January 2025.
- Districts were notified of this new mandate in early September.



# What is Regionalization?

## (continued)



- All districts are required to complete a Strengths & Needs Tool by December 6, 2024. This was changed from a November 1st deadline.
- The BOCES District Superintendent will work collaboratively with each district in their region to create a comprehensive regional plan.
- Each BOCES will present the final regional plan to the Board of Education of each district in their region for consideration and potential approval.



# Fact from Fiction



Regionalization is:

- A local conversation, facilitated by the District Superintendent of your Sole Supervisory District (BOCES).
- Fostering ways local districts are, or can, enhance equitable access to opportunities for students in their schools.
- A response to declining enrollment, timelines, and mandates imposed on NYSED and school districts externally that have been recently accelerated.
- A way to facilitate locally developed plans that will inform state legislative, budget, and regulatory priorities, increasing the voice and input of districts and local communities in Albany.



# Fact from Fiction



Regionalization is **NOT**:

- About eroding local control.
- About mergers, reorganization, or eliminating local school districts.
- A way to force districts into taking actions or including things in their regionalization plans that they do not want to undertake.
- Only about services and supports that the BOCES can provide, or a way to increase the power of a BOCES (i.e., “BOCES will govern local districts”).
- A way to create new accountability systems.
- About District Superintendents developing the plan.



# The Latest Update



As of November 6th, NYSED added the following language to their website:

- All school districts are required to participate in their local Regionalization conversation.
- Upon completing the regional plan, school districts are only required to implement activities they have agreed or consented to for their local context in the final plan.
- While we are currently in the 60-day public comment period on the proposed regulation, at Regent Tilles' request, we (NYSED) are reviewing the regulation's language and considering modifications based on how it is being interpreted in the field.





# State's Stated Intentions vs. Perceived Reality

## **NYSED Position:**

No forced mergers;  
Goal is equitable  
opportunities  
through  
collaboration

## **Perception:**

Lack of clarity fuels  
concerns about  
loss of district  
autonomy, impact  
on budgets and  
loss of local control  
(or loss of fair  
compensation for  
services provided)

## **District Viewpoint:**

We support  
intellectual  
collaboration,  
ongoing dialog,  
but are advocates  
for flexibility and  
local  
choice/control



# GNPS Proposed Letter to NYSED

## Key Points:

- **Choice over Mandate**

- Supports collaboration but requests voluntary participation

- **Respect for Local Control**

- Advocates for oversight by our locally elected Board

### Concerns with Timeline

- Lack of adequate time impacts meaningful engagement and collaboration

- **Reinforce commitment to students and local decision-making**



# Why Choice Matters for GNPS

- **Active Partnerships**

- Long-standing, voluntary collaborations with nearby districts as well as BOCES

- **Commitment to Learning and Intellectual Sharing**

- Willing to share, assist and learn from other districts

- **Position**

- Strongly believe regionalization should not be imposed



# Example of Regionalization in GNPS While Maintaining Local Control: **Village School**



# What We Will Not Support

- Any initiative that shifts GNPS taxpayer dollars outside of the benefit of GNPS students/residents
- Any initiative that imposes mandates upon GNPS without the careful oversight of the Board of Education and Administration
- Any initiative that reduces local control over the best interest of the students, staff and stakeholders of GNPS



# Final Thoughts

- NYSED needs to pause or consider adjustments to the regulation.
- If the regulation is approved, we are asking for additional time for meaningful community and stakeholder engagement.
- We are supportive of building upon productive partnerships but are advocating for local control and voluntary participation in such collaborations.



# Next Steps

- New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS) Legislative Committee Meeting, Friday, Nov. 15.  
(Dr. Bossert is currently the NYSCOSS Vice-President)
- Commissioner’s Advisory Council (CAC), Friday, Nov. 22  
(Dr. Bossert member of the CAC. GNPS “has a seat at the table”)
- Board of Regents – Next Meeting: December 9/10

