

Dear Manhasset School Community,

At the September 9 meeting of the Board of Regents, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) [introduced](#) a new emergency regulation called Regionalization. According to NYSED, the Regionalization Initiative is a collaborative regional planning approach for local districts to communicate what they need in order to ensure equitable educational opportunities for all students.

Through Regionalization, schools and districts can identify, explore, and choose whether to pursue various solutions to the academic and operational challenges they face by accessing resources across the region.

NYSED has tasked each BOCES Superintendent with leading this initiative for their respective region. Under the regulations, each district must complete a Strengths & Needs [tool](#) to determine the types of regionalization efforts needed in their region. Each BOCES Superintendent will then collaborate with the districts in their region to develop a Regionalization Plan for each local Board of Education to consider. Ultimately, each District's Board of Education will decide whether to participate in the final Regionalization Plan.

Last week, the District Superintendents of Nassau, Western Suffolk, and Eastern Suffolk BOCES issued a letter emphasizing that this initiative is not about ceding control of Long Island's schools to BOCES, which would require legislation to alter over a century of law. Rather, the focus is on fostering informed local decision-making, partnerships, and support to ensure students receive the opportunities they need for success.

The rushed rollout of this initiative has contributed significantly to the concerns surrounding it. In response, the Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association hosted a [webinar](#) with NYSED representatives last week. The Board of Education and I attended the webinar to gain a clearer understanding of this initiative. The Board of Education will discuss this at its meeting on Thursday, November 7.

Please rest assured that our first priority is providing the best possible education for our Manhasset students. This initiative is still in its early stages, and NYSED has confirmed that districts will retain the choice to participate in the final plan. They emphasized that the ultimate goal of regionalization planning is to create efficiencies and partnerships

beneficial to districts that opt-in.

As a District, we are committed to staying informed about this NYSED initiative and will thoughtfully evaluate the final Regionalization Plan to determine if there are benefits for Manhasset. Our focus remains steadfast on our students, and we will continue to protect and advocate for the resources and the best interests of our community.

For additional information, NYSED has created a [webpage](#) with details of their Regionalization Initiative. On this page, you will find an [overview](#), information on the [planning process](#), [materials and guidance](#), [FAQs](#), and [a way to contact NYSED](#). On September 25, this item was listed in the [State Register](#). Accordingly, the public comment period on this initiative is open until November 25, 2024, and comments can be sent to Regcomments@nysed.gov.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gaurav Passi

Superintendent of Schools