



Regionalization Update November 24th

November 24, 2024

Good evening, POB School Community.

The New York State Education Department's (NYSED) Regionalization Initiative has sparked significant advocacy across Long Island. The POB Board of Education and District have expressed concerns to the Commissioner of Education about the language in the regulation highlighting potential risks such as reduced local control, diverted resources, and state funding tied to compliance with a regional plan. While NYSED asserts that participation in any regional plan is optional, the current language in the regulation has raised questions. Regent Tilles, representing Long Island, has urged NYSED to clarify this language. In response, NYSED has stated:

"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 are reviewing the regulation's language and **considering modifications** based on how it is being interpreted in the field."

Despite these assurances, ambiguity remains regarding districts' ability to "opt-out," fueling concerns about potential forced compliance. To address these issues, the **POB Board of Education will discuss two resolutions at tomorrow night's meeting to strengthen local safeguards.** To learn more about the NYSED Regionalization Initiative, please visit the [NYSED website here](#).

We encourage all residents to share their perspectives with NYSED during this public comment period. Your input is critical to ensuring NYSED moves from "considering modifications" to definitive revisions. Comments can be sent to: regionalization@nysed.gov. The public comment period ends tomorrow, November 25th.

Thank you for your engagement in this important matter.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mary O'Meara
Superintendent of Schools