

# Regionalization Update

A report to the Board of Education,  
Bedford Central School District

Dr. Robert Glass, 12.11.2024



# Background & Timeline

- **September 9, 2024-** Board of Regents issued emergency regulation mandating *a conversation* to develop a strategic approach to upcoming challenges:
  - Student Access to High-Quality Educational Opportunities
  - Fiscal Constraints
  - The Upcoming Graduation Measures Initiative



# Background & Timeline

- **Context**
  - Parallel process with Rockefeller Institute's study of NYS School Funding (August-December 2024)
  - Very little information on Regionalization provided in advance. The title of the initiative caused some confusion



# Background & Timeline

- **Context**

- Districts required to complete Strengths & Needs Tool by November 1 (deadline extended to 12.6)
  - Data (NYS already has)
  - Narrative
- Facilitated by BOCES superintendent in each region- PNW BOCES met with superintendents



# Background & Timeline

- **Context-** Each region is to come up with a plan-emerging theme in our region: student mental health
- **October 11-** Jeffrey Matteson (Senior Deputy Commissioner for Educational Policy) and David Frank (NYSED Chief of Staff) meet with Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents to provide more clarity on Regionalization and to gather input



# Background & Timeline

**What it is:** The Regionalization Initiative is a collaborative regional planning approach for local districts to communicate what they need in order to address student needs and operational efficiencies, grounded in a process of periodic needs assessment and cross-district conversations.

**What it is *not*:** The Regionalization Initiative is *not* about reorganization (e.g., merger, consolidation, annexation), nor does it mandate districts participate in particular activities under a regional plan.



*“There is not a one-size-fits-all approach to creating opportunities for students. New York State's educational landscape already features many different examples of partnerships across schools and districts as well as existing regional infrastructure that offers support, such as cross-district contracts and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). The outcomes and action items from regional planning conversations will vary from region to region, building upon the strengths inherent in local communities and reflecting innovative ideas from the individuals who live in them.” - NYSED website*



# Background & Timeline

- **Context-** Superintendents expressed concern about:
  - The lack of clarity and communication about the initiative; misleading title
  - The requirement to provide and re-enter into the portal data the state already has
  - Lack of clarity about next steps in the process





# Background & Timeline

- **Oct. - Nov. 2024-** Articles and reports in various areas across the state expressing concern about mandated participation in a plan and loss of local control
- **Week of Nov 18, 2024-** Consulted with PNW BOCES Superintendent Neil Boyle and BCSD Legal Counsel regarding interpretation of the emergency regulation and impact to local control



# Background & Timeline

- Regionalization website and face to face communications indicate the conversation is mandated, not participation in a plan.
- **November 26, 2024-** Commissioner Rosa issues a written clarification letter, adding two key components to address local control:



# Background & Timeline

- **Clarification on Monitoring and Amendments:** Section 124-2.5(d) will be revised to note that suggested amendments to regionalization plans will remain advisory rather than mandatory. This ensures that districts maintain full control over the plans they develop.
- **Voluntary Participation Acknowledgment:** To address concerns about mandatory participation, a new provision (Section 124-2.8) will be added, which allows districts in consultation with their school boards, to elect not to participate in the regionalization planning process by submitting written notification by January 15, 2025.



# Background & Timeline

- **Early December-** Rockefeller Institute recommendations released
- **December 9-10 Regents meeting-** Regionalization will be discussed
- **December 12-** Town Hall with Commissioner Rosa (superintendents & up to 3 BOE members per district)



# Resources

- [Regionalization Website](#)
- [Slide Deck from Regents Presentation, June 2024](#)
- [Video from Nassau County meeting](#) with Jeffrey Matteson & David Frank
- [September 12 letter from NYSED](#)
- [November 26 Commissioner Letter on Regionalization](#)
- [Rockefeller Foundation Aid Study](#)

