New York State Graduation Measures Initiative

Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures Ambassador Program • Public Forum

Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Summarizing the Graduation Measures Initiative
- Presentation and Discussion of the Four Proposed Transformations
- Sharing Final Thoughts and Considerations
- Next Steps and Closing Remarks

Ensuring Educational Excellence and Equity

Graduation Measures Initiative Timeline

Phase 1:
Nov 2019 – Mar 2020

Information Gathering
- Stakeholder Feedback Sessions
- Literature and Policy Review
- Surveys

Phase 2:
Oct 2022 – Nov 2023

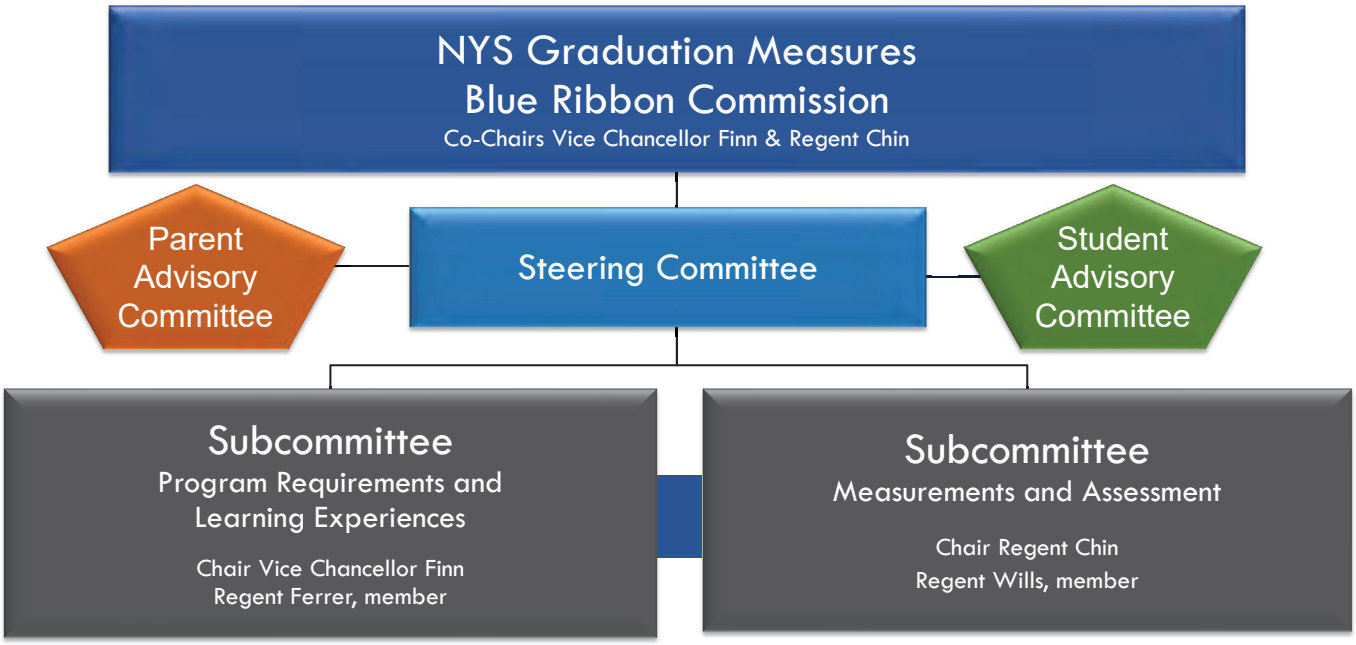
Blue Ribbon Commission
- Parent and Student Advisory Panels

Phase 3:
Nov 2023 – Spring 2024

Internal Work Group
- Unpack Recommendations
- Develop Implementation Framework

Phase 4:
Spring 2024 – Fall 2024

Additional Feedback/Roadmap
- Gather Additional Stakeholder Feedback
- Create and Communicate a Comprehensive Roadmap (Fall 2024)



Diversity of the Blue Ribbon Commission

BRC Recommendations

Assessment Requirements

1 Number of Diplomas and Seals/Endorsements

Replace the three diploma types with one diploma with the option to add seals and endorsements.

5 Diploma Assessment Requirements

Reduce and/or modify diploma assessment requirements to allow more assessment options.

6 Performance-Based Assessments

Create State-developed rubric(s) for any performance-based assessments allowed as an option to satisfy the diploma assessment requirements.

BRC Recommendations

Credit Requirements

4 Reorganization of Credit Requirements

Move to a model that organizes credit requirements, including content area credit requirements into larger categories (e.g., mathematics and science courses could be included in the “STEM” category).

2 Credit Requirements

Diploma credit requirements must include civic responsibility/ethics; cultural competence; financial literacy education, including systems, personal finance, and the social-historical context; fine and performing arts; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) credit(s); and writing, including writing skills for real-world scenarios.

3 Access to Career and Technical Education

Ensure access to career and technical education, including internships and work-based learning opportunities for all students across the State.

BRC Recommendations

Options for Specific Students

7. Create more specific, tailored graduation requirements to address the unique circumstances of certain groups of students (e.g., non-compulsory age students, newcomer students, refugee students).
8. Provide exemptions from diploma assessment requirements for: students with significant cognitive disabilities; and major life events and extenuating circumstances (e.g., medical conditions, death of a family member, trauma prior to sitting for a required exam).
9. Pursue regulatory changes to allow the discretion to confer high school degrees posthumously.

Additional BRC Recommendations

10. Require all NYS teacher preparation programs to provide instruction in culturally responsive-sustaining education (CR-SE) practices and pedagogy.
11. Require that professional development plans include culturally responsive-sustaining education practices and pedagogy.
12. Review and revise the NYS learning standards to:
    - better align with college and career expectations and update for family and consumer sciences, health, media literacy, and climate education;
    - emphasize higher-order skills and competencies (e.g., health education, communication, decision-making, time management, soft skills); and
    - use a culturally responsive-sustaining education (CRSE)/diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and accessibility lens in all subject areas, including history.

Proposed Transformations

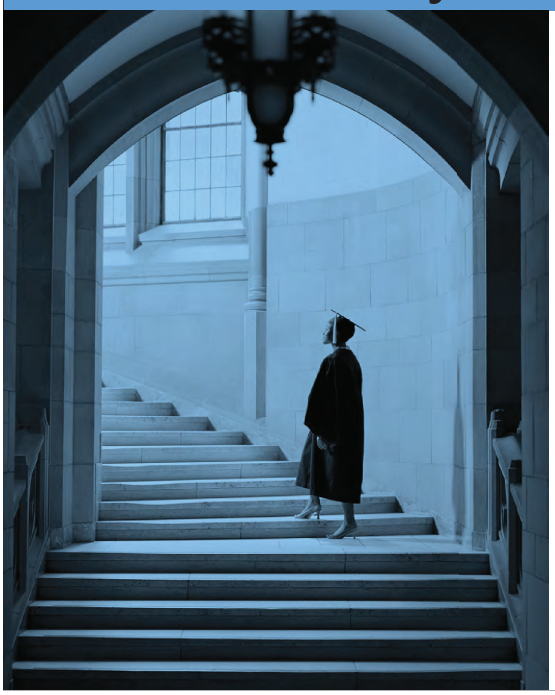
Adopt the New York State Portrait of a Graduate.

Redefine Credits and Expand Learning Experiences.

Sunset Diploma Assessment Requirements.

Move to One Diploma.

Current System: Portrait of a Graduate



Currently, the NYS Education Department does not have a statewide Portrait of a Graduate.

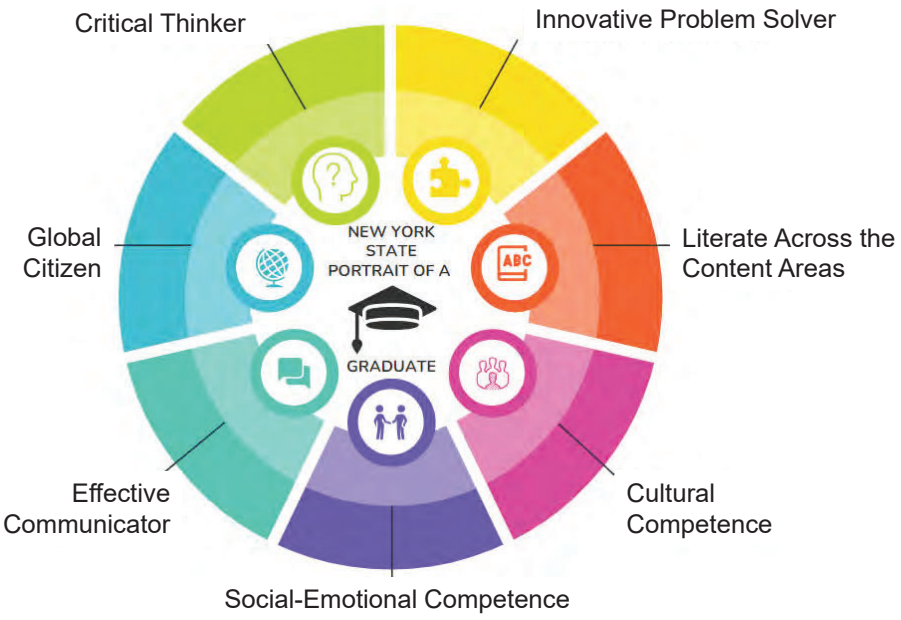
Some schools and districts establish local portraits/profiles of graduates.

Transformation #1: Adopt the NYS Portrait of a Graduate

The NYS Portrait of a Graduate becomes the framework for future diploma requirements.

Portrait of a Graduate

New York State graduates are ready for college, careers, and civic engagement!



How success in P-12 education is defined

Diploma

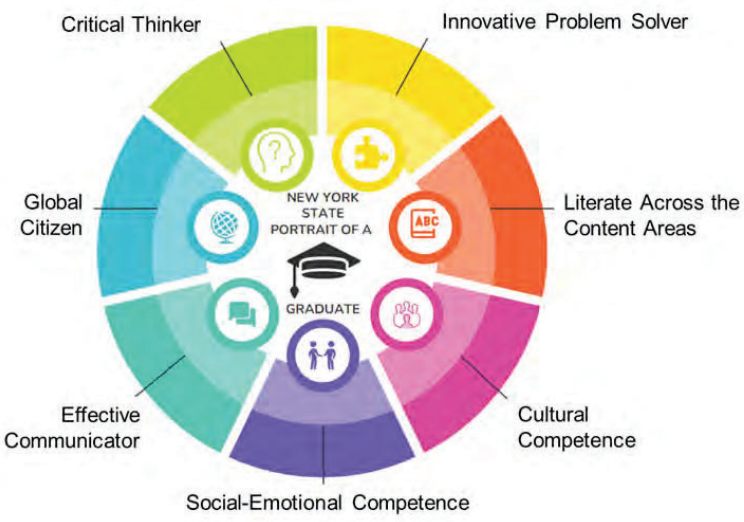
Based on the essential skills, knowledge, mindsets, and attributes needed for success in 21st century life, college, careers, service, and citizenry

NYS Portrait of a Graduate

Students demonstrate proficiency through evidence in multiple ways

Defining the Components of the Portrait of a Graduate

What does it mean for a student to be (or demonstrate)…



Current System: Earning Credits

- Currently, credit requirements are primarily earned through the successful completion of units of study.
- Units of study require a minimum of 180 minutes of instruction per week, or the equivalent.
- Credit requirements are separated by content area (i.e., 3 credits in mathematics).

Transformation #2: Redefine Credits

- Organize diploma requirements by the components of the Portrait of a Graduate.
- Add new requirements for CTE and financial literacy.
- Expand ways for students to show evidence of proficiency in the learning standards and the components of the Portrait of a Graduate.

Expanding Learning Experiences

Students may provide evidence of their proficiency in the learning standards and the components of the Portrait of a Graduate in a variety of ways.

Approved Work-Based or Service-Based Learning Experiences

Capstone Learning Experiences

Early College High School / PTECH

Earning NYS Credentials or Seals

High School Courses

NYSED-Approved CTE Programs

Participation in the Arts

Passing Approved Assessments

Let's Discuss: Redefining Credit

Identify the opportunities and challenges related to redefining credit.

Discussion
(10 minutes)

Enter your Thoughts
(3 minutes)

Rate other Thoughts
(2 minutes)

Opportunities

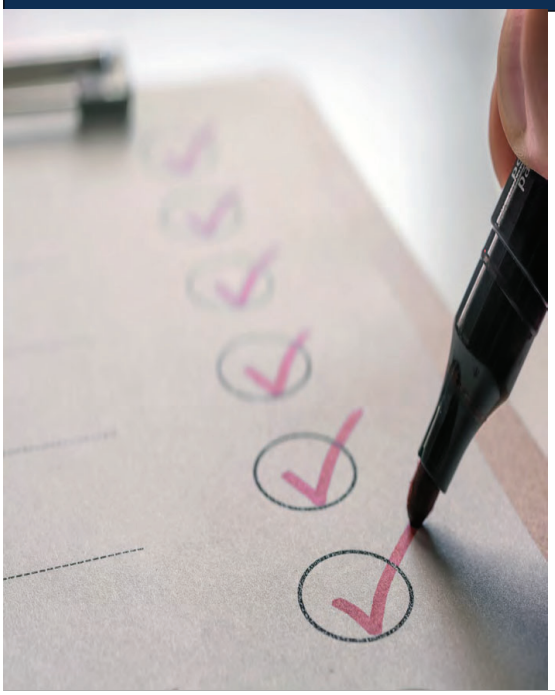
Challenges

Current System: Twofold System

Currently, students must satisfy both the credit requirements and the assessment requirements to earn a diploma.

- 22 units of credit
- 5 assessments (4 +1 pathway) for a Regents or local diploma

Transformation #3: Sunset Diploma Assessment Requirements



- Students will no longer need to “pass the Regents” or a +1 Pathway Assessment to graduate.
- State assessments will continue to be administered per federal ESSA requirements.

Multiple Means for Demonstrating Student Proficiency

Earned the Seal of Biliteracy

Successfully completed a locally-developed Capstone Project

Successfully completed an English Composition course

New York State graduates are effective communicators.

Successfully completed Digital Media Communications CTE Program

Passed the State Exam in English Language Arts

Completed a summer internship for the community newspaper

Let's Discuss: Diploma Assessment Requirements

Identify the opportunities and challenges related to sunsetting the diploma assessment requirements.

Discussion
(10 minutes)

Enter your Thoughts
(3 minutes)

Rate other Thoughts
(2 minutes)

Opportunities

Challenges

Current System: Three Diploma Types

- Currently, students can earn one of three diplomas:
  - Local
  - Regents
  - Regents with advanced designation
- Districts can add local requirements in addition to the State's requirements and withhold diplomas from students who do not meet those requirements.

Transformation #4: Move to One Diploma

- Advanced designation would become a seal or endorsement.
- Districts must confer diplomas to students who satisfy the State's requirements.
- Districts can add additional seals or endorsements.

Let's Discuss: One Diploma

Identify the opportunities and challenges related to moving to one New York State high school diploma.

Discussion
(10 minutes)

Enter your Thoughts
(3 minutes)

Rate other Thoughts
(2 minutes)

Opportunities

Challenges

Current Model vs. Proposed Transformational Model

Current Model	Proposed Transformational Model
Three diploma types Advanced designation is one	One diploma Advanced designation becomes seal or endorsement
Twofold system Credit Requirements, primarily earned through units of study Assessment Requirements	Evidence-based system Multiple means for demonstrating student proficiency Eliminates assessment requirements
Districts can add local requirements and withhold diplomas from students who do not meet those requirements.	Districts must confer diplomas to students who satisfy the State's requirements.

Proposed Transformations

Adopt the New York State Portrait of a Graduate.

Redefine Credits and Expand Learning Experiences.

Sunset Diploma Assessment Requirements.

Move to One Diploma.

Let's Discuss: Final Thoughts

1. What thoughts do you have about the four transformations related to future diploma requirements (adopt the portrait of a graduate, redefine credits, sunset diploma assessment requirements, move to one diploma)?
2. What else does the Department need to address?

Discussion
(5 minutes)

Enter your Thoughts
(3 minutes)

Rate other Thoughts
(2 minutes)

Final Thoughts

To Be Addressed

What's Next

July

Stakeholder feedback collected by NYSED and BRC Ambassadors

August - October

Ongoing stakeholder engagement

Identifying potential budget considerations

November

Full plan presented to Board of Regents with roll-out plan including projected timelines, affected regulations, etc.

Questions?

If you have additional questions that we were not able to answer, please email those questions to GradMeasures@nysed.org.

THANK YOU!