

Future graduation requirements topic of forums

Four public forums focusing on potential future graduation requirements in New York State are being held in September for educators and residents of Dutchess County.

Stemming from findings of the New York State Education Department's Blue Ribbon Commission, the forums will highlight the recommendations and seek feedback from attendees, which will include educators and a variety of community members.

In summary, the recommendations include:

- Adopting the New York State Portrait of a Graduate as the framework for diploma requirements. The portrait has seven elements:
 - a. Critical Thinker
 - b. Innovative Problem Solver
 - c. Literate Across Content Areas
 - d. Cultural Competence
 - e. Social-Emotional Competence
 - f. Effective Communicator
 - g. Global Citizen
- Redefining credits by organizing them around the portrait, adding career and technical education and financial literacy requirements and expanding ways for students to show proficiency in the standards and components of the portrait.
- Sunsetting diploma assessment requirements by eliminating the need to "pass the Regents or a +1 Pathway assessment to graduate. (State assessments will continue per federal ESSA requirements)
- Move to one diploma statewide with advanced designations via a seal or endorsement with room for districts to add additional seals or endorsements. If students satisfy state requirements they will earn a diploma.
- Require all New York State teacher preparation programs to provide instruction in culturally responsive-sustaining education practices.

See [NYSED's Blue Ribbon Commission page](#) for more information on the commission and its recommendations.

Pawling Central School District Superintendent Kim Fontana and Beacon City School District Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Support Sagrario Rudecindo-O'Neill are leading the forums as Blue Ribbon Commission ambassadors.

"I'm very excited about this," Fontana said. "This is an opportunity for New York to bring our education more in line with the 21st century. The recommendations allow students to have more opportunities to tailor their education across components and provide a more meaningful school experience."

Rudecindo-O'Neill chaired the steering committee and presented the recommendations to the Board of Regents.

"I feel it is my duty to spread the word and support the work. It is an honor and privilege to share this and ensure that barriers are removed so students can get their diplomas," Rudecindo-

O'Neill said, adding, "The biggest takeaway I hope people will walk away with is that they received accurate information and that they find the recommendations to be hopeful and long overdue for New York students. I hope they see this as an opportunity for students, something that enhances the rigor but is equitable."

The forums are scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 10 and Thursday, Sept. 19 at Dutchess BOCES' Conference Center, 5 BOCES Road, Poughkeepsie; Oct. 16 at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon and Oct. 23 at Pawling Middle School, 80 Wagner Road, Pawling. Educators may attend from 4:30-6 p.m., while the public forums are scheduled from 6:30-8 p.m. During the forums, participants will be asked to discuss the four major recommendations in small groups and share feedback through prompts electronically.

Dutchess BOCES Deputy Superintendent Jodi DeLucia said the agency is glad to partner with the New York State Education Department to share these recommendations with educators and the public and gather feedback to help inform the decision-making process.

Please register to attend a forum using the links below:

Tuesday, Sept. 10

[Educator forum, 4:30-6 p.m.](#) or bit.ly/BRC-EducatorForumSept10

[Public forum, 6:30-8 p.m.](#) or <https://bit.ly/BRC-Public-ForumSept10>

Thursday, Sept. 19

[Educator forum, 4:30-6 p.m.](#) or <https://bit.ly/BRC-EducatorForumSept19>

[Public forum, 6:30-8 p.m.](#) or <https://bit.ly/BRC-Public-ForumSept19>

Wednesday, Oct. 16

[Educator forum, 4:30-6 p.m.](#) or <https://bit.ly/BRC-EducatorForumOct16>

[Public forum, 6:30-8 p.m.](#) or <https://bit.ly/BRC-Public-ForumOct16>

Wednesday, Oct. 23

[Educator forum, 4:30-6:30 p.m.](#) or <https://bit.ly/BRC-EducatorForumOct23>

[Public forum, 6:30-8 p.m.](#) or <https://bit.ly/BRC-Public-ForumOct23>

Educator Forum on Graduation Measures

Facilitators:

Dr. Jodi DeLucia,
Dutchess BOCES, Deputy Superintendent

Ms. Kim Fontana,
Pawling Central School District, Superintendent

Dr. Sagrario Rudecindo-O'Neill,
Beacon City School District,
Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum & Student Support



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FORUMS

NEW YORK STATE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION (BRC) ON GRADUATION MEASURES

SEPTEMBER 10TH or 19TH

Dutchess BOCES Conference Center
5 BOCES Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

OCTOBER 16

Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
Beacon, NY 12508

OCTOBER 23

Pawling Middle School
80 Wagner Road
Pawling, NY 12564

ALL INTERESTED

In November 2023, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures presented its recommendations for future diploma requirements to the Board of Regents. Since then, the Department created a vision to implement these recommendations.

Meeting attendees will have the opportunity to break into smaller groups to discuss and provide feedback to the Department on their proposed vision for implementing the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures.

Please attend and share your input!

For more information, visit: nysed.gov/grad-measures

PRE-REGISTRATION required



Tuesday, September 10, 2024
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Educator Forum
bit.ly/BRC-EducatorForumSept10



Thursday, September 19, 2024
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Educator Forum
bit.ly/BRC-EducatorForumSept19



Wednesday, October 16, 2024
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Educator Forum
bit.ly/BRC-EducatorForumOct16



Wednesday, October 23, 2024
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Educator Forum
bit.ly/BRC-EducatorForumOct23

Public Forum on Graduation Measures

Facilitators:

Dr. Jodi DeLucia,
Dutchess BOCES, Deputy Superintendent

Ms. Kim Fontana,
Pawling Central School District, Superintendent

Dr. Sagrario Rudecindo-O'Neill,
Beacon City School District,
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Curriculum & Student Support



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