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BOCES

The Evidence Base for NY Inspires:
Blue Ribbon Commission and Literature Review Findings
January 2026

Overview

- Stakeholder Input and Priorities
- The impact of rigorous requirements
- Opportunities for success



Blue Ribbon
Commission
on Graduate
Measurement

NOVEMBER 10, 2011



Stakeholder Input



Stakeholder Input and Priorities

- Desire for multiple pathways
- Focus on real-world skills
- Equity and inclusivity
- Simplification of diploma types



State Scan Findings



Core Purposes and Integration Strategies

- Diverse Pathways for Mastery
- Complementary Assessment Systems
- Focus on Deeper Learning .



Key Pillars of Implementation

- Local Development and Context
- Teacher Capacity and Collaboration
- Alignment and Quality Criteria



Equity, Inclusion, and Communication

- Promoting Educational Equity
- Support for Diverse Learners
- Transparent Communication and Advocacy



Literature Review



What is the evidence base on the relationship between college, career, and civic readiness indicators and students' success in college and career?

	College Enrollment	College Performance/ Persistence	Degree Attainment	Employment	Wages
Targeted college preparation programs	✓		✓		
Required rigorous college preparatory curriculum	✓				
Participation in optional rigorous coursework	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Algebra II	✓	✓	✓		✓



Which graduation requirements have an evidence base indicating they contribute to the college and career readiness of all students?

1. Required, rigorous college preparatory curriculum - mixed results
 - o May increase number of students who enroll in college immediately after high school
 - o May result in a small increase HS drop out
 - o Marginal improvement in ACT science scores for all.
 - Weakest students having *greater* improvement in ACT composite and science scores.



Which graduation requirements have an evidence base indicating they contribute to the college and career readiness of all students? (continued)

2. Requiring high-stakes graduation assessments - mixed results
 - o Increased dropout rates.
 - o Not positively associated with any college or career outcomes.
 - o Providing other assessment options can mitigate negative effects.



Which additional high school experiences and opportunities have an evidence base indicating they contribute to the college and career readiness of all students?

- Early college
- Peer support
- Service learning
- Taking one AP, IB, or honors course in any subject
- Dual enrollment



What is the evidence base that offering flexible pathways to a diploma contributes to the college and career readiness of all students?

- Pathways that allow students to demonstrate proficiency without passing the state-mandated exam appear to mitigate the effect of exit exams on dropout rates.
- Alternate pathways to graduation do not generally impact dropout rates for Hispanic students



Understanding the Scope of the Evidence



Thank You

