

TO: NYSUT Board of Directors
NYSUT Local Presidents
FROM: NYSUT Officers
DATE: April 7, 2020
SUBJECT: ***NYSUT Alert – Update on NYSUT Response to COVID-19***

Please read below for several important updates and resources:

1. Regents and SED Cancel Regents Exams and Postpone New Standards Implementation

Regents and SED Cancel Regents Exams and Postpone New Standards Implementation

Chancellor Rosa and Interim Commissioner Tahoe announced the cancellation of Regents Exams scheduled for June 2020. Students completing a course that ends in a Regents exam will receive credit toward their high school diploma. The attached memo outlines all of the scenarios for affected students including students planning on a 4 + 1 diploma. The attached Frequently Asked Questions document will be updated regularly as SED receives additional questions from the field.

In addition, the Chancellor and SED announced a change in the implementation schedule for the Next Generation ELA and Math Standards and the State Grade 3-8 Tests on the new standards. The original schedule called for implementation of the new standards to begin in September of 2020 with new tests to be administered in spring of 2021. These dates have been changed to September 2021 for the standards implementation and spring of 2022 for the new tests.

Here is the link to the NYS State Education Department memo: <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/coronavirus/nysed-covid-19-memo-cancellation-june-2020-regents-exams.pdf>

Also attached, is NYSUT's statement on the cancellation of Regents exams.

2. Governor's Messages

The Governor extended mandatory closure of schools and non-essential business to Wednesday, April 29.

The State's Department of Labor is aware of technical issues and slow response times on its unemployment benefits website. Additional staff has been deployed to address the issues. The Department of Labor is reassuring New Yorkers that benefits will be retroactive from the date of unemployment.

3. SOCE Application Deadline Extended

At the April Meeting of the Board of Regents, regulations were adopted to extend the application deadline for the Statement Of Continued Eligibility (SOCE) for special education teachers teaching content in self-contained classes from June 30, 2020 to June 30, 2021. In addition, the required years of satisfactory full-time teaching experience under the HOUSSE rubric for the SOCE and limited extension can include teaching experience through June 30, 2021. Teachers applying for the SOCE will continue to have three years from the application to meet any of the workshop requirements.

<https://www.nysut.org/resources/all-listing/research/fact-sheets/fact-sheet-certification-students-with-disabilities>

4. ELT Courses to continue

We've opened a third session of online certification courses April 27-July 3 through ELT. Registration is open now and will close on April 22, 2020 at midnight.