



NYS BOARD OF REGENTS AND STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REGIONAL TASK FORCE MEETINGS AND STUDENT FORUM ON SCHOOL REOPENING

*RECOVERING, REBUILDING & RENEWING
THE SPIRIT OF OUR SCHOOLS*

June 15, 17, 22, 23 and 24, 2020



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

THANK YOU!

Thank you to

**Chancellor Rosa, Board of Regents Members,
and Interim Commissioner Tahoe**

for your leadership, support and participation in planning and conducting the School Reopening Regional Task Force Meetings and Student Forum!

THANK YOU!

The School Reopening Regional Task Force Meetings and Student Forum could not have taken place without the support of the

Region 2 Comprehensive Center

led by WestEd

THANK YOU!

SPECIAL THANKYOUS go to:

- our **BOCES District Superintendents** for their leadership and planning, for hosting the meetings, and so much more;
- **Dr. Jack DeHovitz**, our medical expert, and **Natalie Walrond**, our SEL expert, who took the time to share their expertise;
- to our **SED senior managers and staff associates** who acted as facilitators, notetakers, and reporters; and
- **Lynne Wells, Project Manager**, who coordinated everything!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to all the

Regional Task Force Meeting Participants
and Student Forum Participants...

...for taking the time to share their expertise and diverse perspectives.

Their input is reflected throughout our guidance document.

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION

MEETING	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS *Registered - actual # may be different
Regional Meeting 1	356
Regional Meeting 2	409
Regional Meeting 3	387
Regional Meeting 4	379
Student Forum	123
TOTAL # OF PARTICIPANTS	1,654*

GOAL OF THE TASK FORCE

Goal:

The Task Force will provide the Board of Regents and the Education Department with thoughtful and inclusive input needed to develop the guidance and regulatory changes that will enable New York's school districts, charter schools, and non-public schools to safely open their schools.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The health, safety, and well-being of the children and adults is paramount.
2. Educational equity will be at the forefront of decision-making.
3. One size does not fit all. New York is a large state, in population and size. There is tremendous diversity among New York's people, geographic regions, and schools and school districts.
4. While it is important to provide districts with guidelines and policies, it is important as well to give them appropriate leeway to develop creative solutions to their unique challenges.
5. Districts will be enabled and encouraged to work directly with parents, teachers, administrators, and their local communities to develop and deliver workable solutions to their unique needs and succeed through a collective effort.
6. Planning for schools to reopen is not a one-time event. The Board and Department will continuously monitor the situation and provide updated guidance, policies, and regulatory changes as the situation requires.

AREAS OF FOCUS

The Regents and the Department will consider the following areas of focus as they develop the guidance and regulatory changes that will enable New York's school districts to safely open their schools.

Health and Safety

Transportation/
Facilities/Nutrition

Teaching and
Learning

Digital Equity and
Access

Budget and Fiscal

Social-Emotional
Needs

Special Education

Bilingual Education/
MLL/ELL

Staffing/Human
Resources

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What do you think are the greatest challenges that schools and school districts will face under each of the three instructional models: in person, remote, or a combination of the two?
- Can you provide us with concrete examples of creative solutions to challenging problems that could work in your school or district under each of the three schooling scenarios?
- Can you tell us how the Regents and Department can help eliminate any of the institutional, budgetary, and regulatory obstacles that stand in the way of your success?

CONCLUSION

Thank you!