



To: Superintendents and District Superintendents

From: Assistant Commissioner Julia Rafal-Baer 
Assistant Commissioner Ira Schwartz 

Date: March 23, 2015

Subject: Inclusion of Grade 8 Algebra I Regents Examination Results in State-Provided Growth Scores for Relevant Educators in Grades 4-8

Background

In February 2014, the New York State Education Department (Department) notified you of the United States Department of Education's (USDE) renewal of the Department's request for an extension of the one-year waiver from certain provisions of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) [Sections 1111(b)(1)(B) and 1111(b)(3)(C)(i)] that require students who take Regents Examinations in Mathematics when they are enrolled in seventh or eighth grade to also take the NYS Common Core Mathematics Assessment for the grade in which they are enrolled. Under the waiver, teachers and schools will not have to prepare 7th and 8th grade students for the State grade level math assessment when they are receiving instruction in Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II/Trigonometry. Under this waiver, Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) are allowed to choose to administer only the Regents Examination in Algebra I, the Regents Examination in Geometry, or the Regents Examination in Algebra II/Trigonometry to these students, rather than administering both a Regents exam and the students' grade appropriate NYS Common Core Mathematics Assessment, unnecessary testing in seventh and eighth grades.

The waiver has implications for Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR) for the 2014-15 school year, including the calculation of State-provided growth scores for educators who had students taking only the Regents Examination in Mathematics in grades seven or eight.¹ In the 2013-14 school year, if a student did not take the grade appropriate NYS Common Core Mathematics Assessment, that student did not have a student growth percentile (SGP) calculated for him or her and was not included in the State-provided growth score for his or her teacher or principal.

¹ See Guidance on the Impact of the Department's Recently Approved Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Waiver, available at <https://www.engageny.org/resource/guidance-on-recently-approved-elementary-and-secondary-education-act-waiver>.

Expansion of Student Growth Model for Educators in Grades 4-8 to Include Results from Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core) for Grade 8 Students

In response to feedback from teachers, principals, superintendents, and other stakeholders in the field, the Department has been working to prepare SGPs for students in eighth grade who take only the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core) and do not take the NYS Common Core Mathematics Assessment for their grade. This will allow students enrolled in Algebra I in eighth grade to contribute to their teachers' and principals' State-provided growth scores.

In order to expand the student growth model to include these additional students, the Department will need to provide the vendor with results from the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core) early enough in the process to be included in the final growth score calculations.

This will require districts and BOCES to score and submit their students' results from the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core) by Friday, June 26, 2015.² Results submitted after that date will not be included in the student growth model for educators in grades 4-8. In such cases, if an educator has at least 16 SGPs attributed to him or her based on any additional grades or subjects taught, he or she will still receive a State-provided growth score. In the event the educator no longer meets the minimum requirement of 16 SGPs to receive a State-provided growth score, Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) must be used for the State Growth or Other Comparable Measures subcomponent of their evaluation.³

At this time, the Department is planning to include these Regents Examination results only for 8th grade students who take the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core). Regents Examination results for students who take only a Mathematics Regents other than Algebra I (Common Core) or who are in a grade other than eighth grade will not be included in the student growth model for educators of students in grades 4-8.

This notice is being sent to provide districts and BOCES enough time to prepare for the revised timeline for submitting results for the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core). Timelines for submitting results for other Regents Examination in Mathematics, or any other subject, remain unaffected and can be found at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/calendar-irs.html>. **All districts** with students in 8th grade taking the Regents Examination Algebra I (Common Core) should be prepared to submit those results by the June 26 deadline, even if their students are also taking the State grade level math assessment at the option of the district.

² Level 1 Centers may set earlier deadlines for submission of these scores.

³ Teachers who receive a State-provided growth score for students in other courses, but for whom fewer than 50% of students are covered in that growth measure, will also use SLOs; in this case, at least one SLO must use the State-provided growth measure. See Question D19 of APPR guidance for more details (<https://www.engageny.org/resource/guidance-on-new-york-s-annual-professional-performance-review-law-and-regulations>).

Any impacted grade 8 Algebra teachers with SLOs who will now receive a State-provided growth score will use such score as their State Growth or Other Comparable Measures subcomponent score in lieu of, or in addition to, their SLO result(s) for the 2014-15 school year, as applicable. This change will not require a material change to the district's or BOCES' currently approved APPR plan.

Related questions should be addressed to educatoreval@nysed.gov, with the subject line "Grade 8 Algebra student growth."