



# Regionalization Plans in New York State

NOVEMBER 2024



# Challenges for School Districts

New York State is facing significant **challenges within and across communities** in preparing all students for college, career, and civic readiness, including:



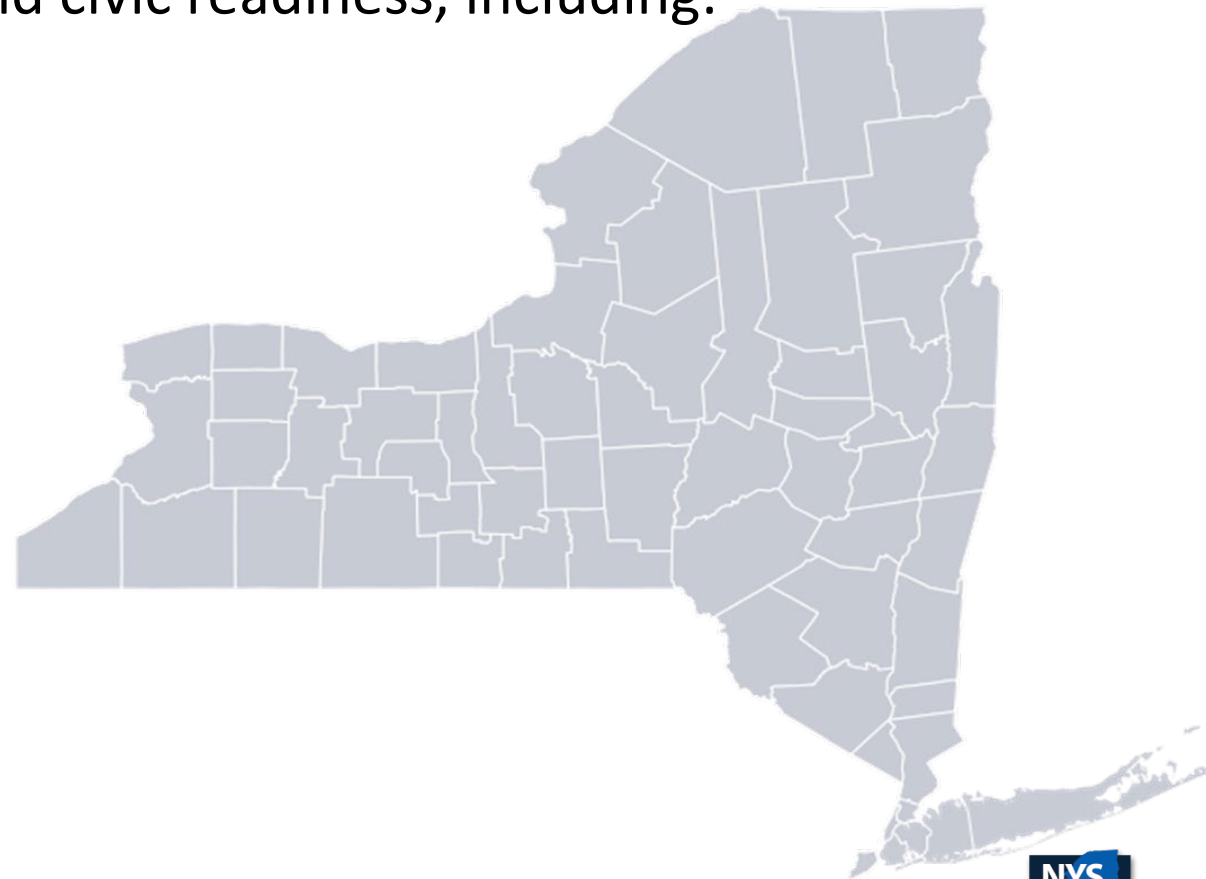
Student access to high-quality educational opportunities



Fiscal constraints



Graduation measures initiative



# Guiding Principles



Regionalization is not reorganization



Time to act is now



Local solutions are needed for local problems



Collaboration is essential in a 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy



No single district can engage in this work alone

# Perspective on Challenges and Opportunities

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- 337 districts in New York State (~50%) would have lost funding under the previous executive “save harmless” proposal.
- Over the past decade, New York State schools lost 131,032 students. Special population numbers are rising – i.e., 20% more unhoused students.
- There are world class enrichment programs, professional learning, and educational effective practices here in New York.



# Fact from Fiction

- Regionalization is:

- A local conversation, facilitated by the District Superintendent of your Sole Supervisory District (BOCES).
- Fostering ways local districts are, or can, enhance equitable access to educational opportunities for students in their schools.
- A response to declining enrollment, timelines, and mandates imposed on NYSED and school districts externally that have been recently accelerated.
- A way to facilitate locally developed plans that will inform state legislative, budget, and regulatory priorities, increasing the voice and input of districts and local communities in Albany.



# Fact from Fiction

- Regionalization is **NOT**:

**FALSE**

- About eroding local control.

**FALSE**

- About mergers, reorganization, or eliminating local school districts.

**FALSE**

- A way to force districts into taking actions or including things in their regionalization plans that they do not want to undertake.

**FALSE**

- Only about services and supports that the BOCES can provide, or a way to increase the power of a BOCES (i.e. “BOCES will govern local districts”).

**FALSE**

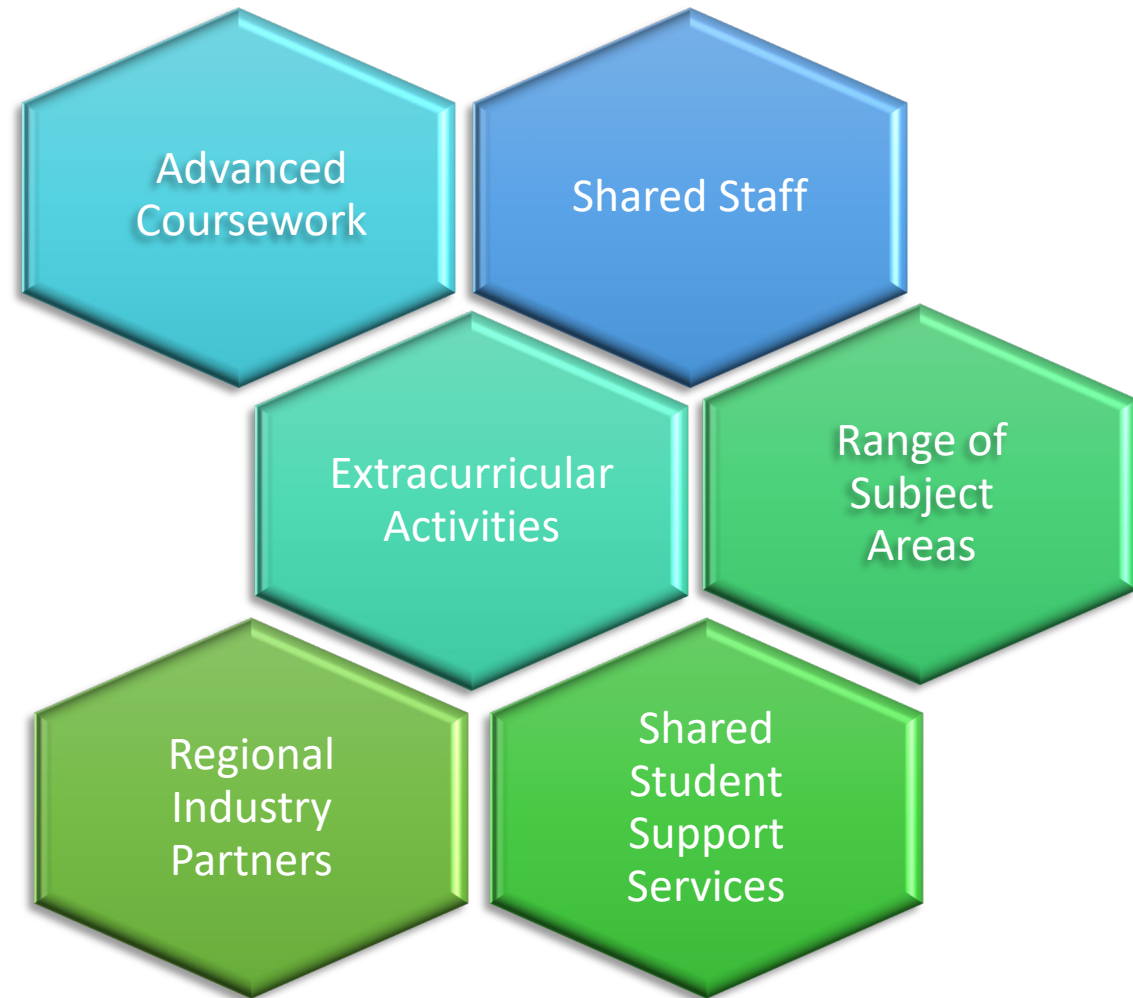
- A way to create new accountability systems.

**FALSE**

- About District Superintendents developing the plan.

# Regionalization as an Opportunity and Strength

Regionalization is a collaborative model for addressing student needs and exploring operational efficiencies where districts can **engage in conversations and partner with** others around a variety of solutions, such as:



# Regionalization Plan

Each component district in a supervisory district works with the District Superintendent to create a regionalization plan that is designed to improve student opportunities (resulting in 37 plans).

**NOTE:** Upon completion of the regional plan, school districts need only pursue implementation of activities they have agreed or consented to for their local context in the final plan.





# Additional Notes



Component school districts and supervisory districts implement approved regionalization plans no later than the start of the 2026-2027 school year but many districts are already engaged in this work.



Voluntary inclusion of neighboring non-component school districts, including the Big Five city school districts, as well as charter schools and nonpublic schools.



The Department and District Superintendents will work with local districts to provide technical assistance to implement the programs within the plan that districts included and will work with districts to amend the plan, if needed, at the request of local districts. NYSED will advocate for resources to implement local plans where needed.

# Benefits



Create equitable educational opportunities for all students.



Establish a systematic mechanism for districts to engage in continual improvement and provides an ongoing voice in Albany.



Develop a process for addressing ongoing educational and fiscal challenges.



Questions?