



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK STATE / ALBANY, NY 12234

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September 12, 2024

Dear Superintendent,

Thank you for your work preparing and opening our schools this fall. I hope you are able to engage in rewarding work and inspire those around to you provide the very best educational opportunities to New York State's students. With this goal in mind, I write to inform you of one of NYSED's efforts to support every region, district, school, and student.

On Monday, September 9, 2024, the Board of Regents adopted an emergency regulation regarding regionalization. The intent is to establish a strategic approach to address educational disparities, fiscal constraints, and operational inefficiencies across school districts in New York State.

In the current educational landscape, we see three significant challenges:

- Student Access to High-Quality Educational Opportunities
- Fiscal Constraints
- The Upcoming Graduation Measures Initiative

With these forces at work, we believe the time is now to have each of our 37 regional supervisory districts engage in conversations about these topics, identify gaps, and create a plan to address them.

This process will be led by the District Superintendent/CEO of each BOCES region, as they report directly to the Commissioner of Education. We intend to require a regional conversation and have asked the District Superintendents to invite members of the Big 5 school districts, nonpublic schools, and charters to join the dialog.

The first step in this process is for each school district to complete a Strength and Needs Tool developed by the Department, which is available in the [NYSED Business Portal](#). Please submit data and responses to the Tool by November 1, 2024. Further background and instructions for accessing and completing the Tool can be found on our [Regionalization website](#) under "Strengths & Needs Tool" on the [Materials & Guidance webpage](#).

The District Superintendent/CEO will be in contact with you regarding the second step in the process, which is to engage in regional convenings to discuss the results of the

submissions. It is our hope that these regional discussions will result in innovative ideas to address the aforementioned challenges.

From these convenings, an interim progress report will be developed and submitted to the Department by April 1, 2025. After Department feedback, a final plan will be submitted by October 1, 2025.

Please consider going to our [Regionalization website](#) mentioned above to gain access to more detailed information as I am certain there will be many questions. The Department stands ready to support your district in this effort and has established the email address [regionalization@nysed.gov](mailto:regionalization@nysed.gov) for questions/technical support.

It is my belief that every school district leader enters this profession to provide educational opportunities to every student within their reach. We see this as your opportunity to expand your reach and influence the future educational direction of your region and potentially your state. The Department needs your help in charting future directions as we attempt to close opportunity gaps and strengthen our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Matteson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

Dr. Jeffrey Matteson

Senior Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Education Policy  
New York State Education Department