

**Andrew Pallotta**  
*President*

**Jolene T. DiBrango**  
*Executive Vice President*

**Ronald Gross**  
*Second Vice President*

**J. Philippe Abraham**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

March 16, 2022

Lester W. Young Jr.  
Chancellor, New York State Board of Regents  
New York State Education Department, Regents Office  
89 Washington Ave  
Albany, New York 12234

Betty A. Rosa  
Commissioner of Education  
New York State Education Department  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12234

Dear Chancellor Young and Commissioner Rosa:

I am writing on behalf of NYSUT to ask for a continuation of the Regents state assessment and diploma requirement safety net for the 2021-2022 school year.

At the March 2021 Board of Regents Meeting, there were several amendments to Commissioner's Regulations adopted for the 2020-2021 school year. These amendments allowed exemptions to the diploma, credential, and endorsement requirements associated with the Regents examinations, pathway assessments, alternative assessments, technical assessments, and locally developed tests and included the June and August 2021 examination administrations. This allowed students to meet their diploma requirements.

Further, on December 21, 2021, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) announced the cancellation of the January 2022 Regents examination administration and asked the Board of Regents to extend the safety net. The Board of Regents adopted emergency regulations with respect to the assessment requirements to ensure students would not be adversely impacted by the cancellation of the exams.

The 2021-2022 school year has been fraught with disruptions to learning as educators have strived to keep their students, themselves, and families safe as the Omicron variant surged through schools and communities. It has been a challenge as students and educators missed school as a result. The school year has also been difficult for our students to adjust to in-person learning after a full year and a half of remote and hybrid learning. Students are overwhelmed socially and emotionally, and we have all seen the increase in mental health issues because of the isolation, trauma, and other effects of the pandemic that many students endured.

Many students have yet to take a Regents exam with high stakes consequences. The safety net will allow teachers and students to focus on the work of teaching and learning, confident that students who meet all other graduation requirements will not lose their chance to earn a diploma. This creates a meaningful and equitable pathway to graduation for all students.

We urge you to do what is fair and equitable for the students of New York state and extend the Regents state assessment and diploma requirement safety net for the June and August 2022 Regents exams.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jolene DiBrango". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jolene DiBrango  
Executive Vice President

cc: Members of the Board of Regents