



LOWER HUDSON EDUCATION COALITION  
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## 2023 Advocacy Agenda Board of Regents/NYSED

Since 1976, the Lower Hudson Education Coalition (LHEC) has been a leading regional public education advocacy voice and resource for the 77 public school districts in Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester counties. Our districts educate over 239,000 students and encompass more than 1.7 million community members.

**Options for Graduation:** *The continuing review of graduation requirements in NYS should focus on ensuring multiple pathways to graduation that maintain the high standards that a Regents diploma has been known for.*

- Permit multiple pathways to graduation, including performance-based assessments.
- Ensure that all students, including but not limited to students with disabilities and students learning English as a new language have a viable pathway to a high school diploma.
- Support the efforts of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures.

**Flexibility in Teacher Hiring:** *Teacher shortages have been evident in certain geographic and subject areas for a while. As teacher retirements have increased due to the pandemic, school districts have had difficulty hiring a qualified, diverse teaching force, especially with certification in certain subject areas.*

- Reduce NYS certification restrictions for experienced teachers from other states and private schools.
- Allow school districts flexibility to utilize highly qualified educators in roles outside of their certification.
- Revise secondary special education teacher certification requirements to align with current classroom needs.
- Allow out-of-state colleges/universities (including HBCU's) to qualify as sources of NYS certified teachers.
- Reduce financial burden to teacher candidates, including deferral of fees until candidates begin working.
- Ensure dedicated SED staff are available to assist candidates and school districts through the process.
- Support waiving income cap for retired teachers.

**Reduce burden of APPR:** *Standardized state testing data has not been demonstrated as a valid source of information on teacher quality. Local administrators are capable of assessing teaching quality in the classroom.*

- Eliminate the use of standardized test scores in teacher evaluations.
- Permit school districts to use locally developed measures of teacher effectiveness.