

Regents approve Core delay

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ALBANY — Students and teachers will be held harmless from the results of the controversial Common Core tests until the 2019-2020 school year, the state Board of Regents said Monday.

The board's committee voted Monday on a series of recommendations from its panel reviewing the standardized tests and how they are used to grade the performance of students and teachers. The committee consists of the full board, so it will officially approved by the entire board Tuesday.

Because of a flawed rollout of the Common Core tests in 2014, educators have been pressing for a delay in using the tests to assess teachers and students.

"Superintendents feel that these controversies were not going to diminish without some action on teacher evaluations," Robert Lowry, deputy director of the Council of School Superintendents, said.

Already, the state Board of Regents delayed the implementation of new teacher evaluations to September 2016, and most districts in September received a waiver to delay the new system.

The policies by the Board of Regents will "ensure that there will be no consequences for teachers and principals" related to the third through eighth grade English and Math tests given each spring, as well as include no growth score on Regents exams until the start of the 2019-2020 school year, the board said.

Also, it will "prohibit the use of results from the 3-8 state assessments for use in evaluating the performance of individual teachers, principals or students."

Instead, the board agreed to provide a four-year transition period for the new annual professional performance reviews, known as APPR.

The move comes just days after a separate panel created by Gov. Andrew Cuomo offered similar recommendations. Cuomo had supported tougher standards for teachers and students, but has knocked the system as troubled in its implementation.

Last week, Cuomo said Common Core is well-intentioned, but in actuality has caused "confusion and anxiety."

"That ends now," he said in a statement. "Today, we will begin to transform our system into one that empowers parents, teachers and local districts and ensures high standards for all students."

The state's Common Core-aligned math and English have led to widespread criticism among parents, teachers and students in New York.

The education department on Monday also released the results of a survey it conducted over the last month to gauge educators' views of the Common Core tests. The detailed questionnaire garnered about 10,500 respondents. The state said that 70 percent of the feedback was supportive of the standards.

The data "show there is strong support for higher learning standards for New York's students," education commissioner MaryEllen Elia said in a statement. "However, the survey findings also indicate that adjustments are necessary, particularly in the early grades, to ensure our standards make sense for our students and schools."

Follow Joseph Spector on Twitter @gannettalbany.

RACE RELATIONS A HOT TOPIC

Youth summit stokes conversation with city officials



NICK REYNOLDS / STAFF PHOTO

Ithaca City School District Superintendent Luvelle Brown discusses how a policy of love and understanding helped his district's students achieve at a higher rate.

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At face value, it was supposed to be a summit on achieving results with local youths, tying in a 2014 initiative by President Barack Obama to ensure all young people — no matter the circumstances into which they are born — have equal opportunity to achieve all they can.

A formal schedule that included talks by local officials, breakout sessions and closing remarks was printed and distributed to everyone walking in the door of Southside Community Center on Thursday evening.

Mayor Svante Myrick, Ithaca City School District Superintendent Luvelle Brown and Ithaca Town Supervisor Bill Goodman all stood before the packed house and detailed what their respective administrations have done for local youths. Tompkins County Youth Services then organized the crowd into focus groups, to specifically detail impediments to youth success in the city and county, and compile them in creating a plan of action.

For those at the center Thursday, there was much more to it than that.

While the Town of Ithaca's \$225,000 investment into youth programming and its youth internship program, as described by Goodman, didn't elicit much response, the discussion began when Myrick said more men are incarcerated in 2015 than were enslaved in the United States in 1850.

"What people?" somebody in the audience asked. "Tell it like it really is."

"Black people," Myrick clarified. "We have ideas and programs, and de-



NICK REYNOLDS / STAFF PHOTO

An attendee of the Community Summit on Youth emphasizes a point to organizer Jasmin Cubero on Thursday evening.



NICK REYNOLDS / STAFF PHOTO

Mayor Svante Myrick along with event organizer Jasmin Cubero take part in one of the breakout groups at the Community Summit on Youth.

spite all this, we still have a problem."

"We have all these groups, all these meetings," the Rev. Olivia Armstrong said. "Nobody recognizes people laying the groundwork, the grass-roots people. If there was change, we wouldn't be sitting here. They need to ask some of the young, African-American men to step up to the plate, to find mentors for My Brother's Keeper, to volunteer. How could you help young black men if you

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"I want these conversations to be had, and everyone needs to be involved."

JASMIN CUBERO
SUMMIT ORGANIZER

Rapist failed to register, police allege

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A man convicted of rape in Elmira is facing a felony charge for failing to register as a sex offender, according to Tompkins County court records.

Carl B. Tate, 36, is a Level 1 sex offender. In 2005, he was convicted of third-degree rape for having sex with someone less than 17, according to court records.

When Tate was released from prison Oct. 15, he gave the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services an ad-



Carl B. Tate, 36, of the Bronx, is a Level 1 sex offender. He faces a felony for failing to register, according to court records.

dress on West State Street in Ithaca, which turned out to be a false address, according to court records.

Tate told an investigator at the Ithaca Police Department that he was staying in the Bronx and had been there since he was released from prison Oct. 15, according to the felony complaint.

On Nov. 26, an Ithaca police investigator applied for an arrest warrant, charging Tate with failure to register as a sex offender, a felony. The arrest warrant was signed by Ithaca City Court Judge Richard Wallace on Dec. 4.

On Dec. 9, Tate was located in New York City by the United States Marshals Service and returned to Ithaca for arraignment. He was sent to the Tompkins County Jail without bail.

Tate had a hearing Monday in Ithaca City Court and the case is expected to move to Tompkins County Court.

Follow Kelsey O'Connor on Twitter @ijkconnor.

Nutritional Wellness Center to mark 10 years

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The Nutritional Wellness Center in Ithaca will mark its 10th anniversary with an open house from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 520 W. Green St.

The center also has pledged to donate 100 percent of all initial client visit proceeds during January to Healthy Food for All, a nonprofit organization in Ithaca that provides community-supported agriculture shares to low-income families, according to a news release.

The center was founded by Tara Lambert, a certified nutritional consultant who had sought out nutritional counseling in 2003 to resolve her own health

issues, the release stated. After changing her diet and taking whole-food supplements, Lambert's health improved and she decided to open her own nutrition practice in Ithaca, the release stated.

The center has grown from an initial staff of two to eight employees, including three practitioners certified in nutrition response testing from Ulan Nutritional Systems, a training center in Clearwater, Florida.

For more information about the Nutritional Wellness Center, call (607) 277-1964 or email info@nutritionalwellness-center.com. Online: nutritionalwellnesscenter.com.



PROVIDED PHOTO

Tara Lambert, a certified nutritional consultant, founded the Nutritional Wellness Center in Ithaca.

LOTTERIES

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N.Y. Daily (night): 2-3-0
N.Y. Win 4 (night): 4-1-8-2
N.Y. Pick 10 (Sunday): 6-10-12-15-20-25-29-38-50-51-56-59-61-66-68-73-75-77-78-80
N.Y. Take 5 (Sunday): 14-20-23-26-37

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