

Memorandum

**TO: Superintendents, High School Principals, and Middle-Level Principals
(Participants in OCM BOCES Regional Summer School)**
FROM: Elaina Renfrew
DATE: October 6, 2015
RE: Regional Summer School 2014 Summary Report

With the publication of this report, the OCM BOCES Regional Summer School Program has officially come to its end. Continuous improvement is our goal, so adjustments were made to Regional Summer School. These adjustments were a result of input and guidance from summer school staff, component school principals and counselors, as well as the superintendents' ISS committee. Naturally, we will reflect on this last year to lead to greater effectiveness and efficiency next year. In preparation for Summer School 2016 we will be employing several formal paths to collect feedback from all of our districts. Suggestions will be incorporated going forward. If at any time you have any suggestions please let me know. We do this service for *your kids!*

Some of the adjustments that were made to Regional Summer School:

- 12 hours of Professional Development was provided in May and June focusing on strategies used to teach in a 2 hour block of time facilitated by CI & A trainers.
- 15 Guidance Counselor Trainings occurred with the focus on having all Counselors present as opposed to 1 representative
- All sites offered courses for 3 blocks
- Class sizes were reduced to a maximum of 20 students
- Implementation of English Language Learner (ELL) Program to support identified students in courses and in Regents Exams
- Creation and Implementation of an Instructional Support model containing 3 parts:
 - Support and modifications to academic tasks for various courses
 - A Testing Center room available when tests/assessments were given
 - An additional block of support was available for extra help and support for homework, practicing vocabulary, practice Regents exams, and more
- GradPoint (Updated version of Nova Net) was used for more students based on low enrollment in course requests which allowed for more course options
- Offering of more initial courses – Psychology and Sociology
- Districts determined final averages and awarded credit PRIOR to report cards being sent which allowed us to avoid confusing parents with different information

All districts were sent a spreadsheet with the data by August 19, 2015, determined final averages, and had report cards mailed by August 25, 2015. We have been working with the RIC to upload summer school grades in districts' student management systems.

Twenty-one districts participated in Regional Summer School. It is interesting to note that there was a 10.5% increase in the number of classes taken in summer school and a 83% increase of students taking an exam, only. The table below shows the total students who participated at each of the four sites.

HOST SITE	# of Courses	# of Exam Only
CNS High School	1062	552
Cortland Jr./Sr. High	618	308
Eagle Hill Middle School	580	373
WG High School	1168	758
TOTAL	3428	1991

Your district's summary report is attached. We used the same format for the summary reports as last year to aid interpretations and comparisons. We have included information about the passing rates using percentages *and fractions* which show actual student numbers in the courses.

OCM BOCES is committed to this "second chance" program for all students, including English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities. We believe we have made progress toward a better system of support for these two groups but work remains to be done. Please send all comments, concerns, suggestions, or questions to me so we can keep improving Regional Summer School.