

# Statewide Plan for Higher Education

February 10, 2025



New York State  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  

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# Purpose of the Statewide Plan for Higher Education

- Define and differentiate the missions and objectives of higher education.
- Identify the needs, problems, societal conditions, and interests of the citizens of the state of New York to which programs of higher education may most appropriately be addressed.
- Define and differentiate the missions and objectives of institutions of higher education.
- Develop programs to meet the needs, solve the problems, affect the conditions, and respond to the public's interests by:
  - Setting goals.
  - Describing the time required to meet those goals.
  - Identifying the resources needed to achieve the goals.
  - Establishing priorities.

# Five Focus Areas for the Statewide Plan for Higher Education

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- Engaging in collaborative, mutually beneficial partnerships with the P-12 community to strengthen the P-20 system.
- Ensuring equity, diversity, and inclusion in the P-20 system, including students in the educator and licensed professional career tracks.
- Improving accessibility, student support services, and academic outcomes.
- Preparing students for the current and future needs of communities, society, and the workforce.
- Transforming operations, structures, and programs in response to the evolving higher education landscape, student profiles, and demographics.

# Sector Master Plans: What's Included?

## Consolidated Master Plans: SUNY, CUNY, CICU, and APC

- Content from institutions' strategic plans
- Plans for new curricula
- Plans for new facilities
- Plans for changes in admissions policies
- Projected student enrollments
- Expenditure projections of capital and operating costs
- Focus on the five focus areas

# Statewide Plan for Higher Education Advisory Council Members

- The State University of New York (SUNY)
- The City University of New York (CUNY)
- The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU)
- The Association of Private Colleges (APC)
- Other stakeholders:
  - United University Professions (UUP)
  - New York State United Teachers (NYSUT)
  - Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)
  - Professional Staff Congress (PSC)
  - Teacher Education Advisory Group (TEAG)
  - The Business Council of New York State
  - Manufacturers Association of Central New York (MACNY)
  - Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS)
  - Tri-State Opportunity Consortium
  - New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE)
  - Student Representatives

# Examples of Current Initiatives that Fit into the Five Focus Areas

## Strengthening P-20

- Early College High School
- Mentor Teacher Internship Program
- CTE and Perkins Funding Programs
- Teachers of Tomorrow
- Grow Your Own
- Teacher Residencies
- Path Forward Literacy Initiative
- Graduation Measures and Performance Learning and Assessment (PLAN) Initiatives

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)
- STEP
- My Brother's Keeper Teacher Opportunity Corps II
- Clinically Rich Intensive Teacher Institutes (Bilingual education/ESOL)
- Teacher shortage dashboards
- Meeting the needs of immigrant students

## Improving Access and Outcomes

- Opportunity Programs
- Top 10% Promise
- TAP and Excelsior Scholarships
- College in prison initiatives
- Universal FAFSA Completion Initiative
- Supports for students with disabilities
- Foster Youth College Success Initiative
- Ensure that academic and student supports foster success and positive outcomes

## Preparing Students for Society and the Workforce

- P-TECH
- Part-time TAP for workforce training
- Physician Loan Forgiveness Program
- High needs nursing programs
- Design programs to meet current/future industry demand (e.g., Semiconductors, Biotech, health care, sustainable energy)
- Stackable microcredentials
- Industry partnerships and internships
- Cultural, arts, and humanities programs and venues

## Transforming in Response to Change

- AI
- Data-driven campuses
- Hybrid/remote learning
- Recruiting and enrollment strategies and systems
- College closures/mergers
- Campus safety systems
- Preparing for emergent issues such as campus protests and public health emergencies
- Clean, green campuses

# Important Ideas Raised at the First Statewide Plan Advisory Council Meeting

## Strengthening the P-20 System

- Strengthening and expanding partnerships across the P-20 continuum to facilitate college and career pathways (school districts, colleges, businesses, and community partners).
- The need for better communication among those working with students in P-20 (breaking down silos).
- The need for better support for those working with students in P-20 so they can better support students.
- Bringing high school college counselors to college campuses to make them aware of programs.
- Universal FAFSA as another opportunity for P-20 connections.

# Important Ideas Raised at the First Statewide Plan Advisory Council Meeting

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- The importance of creating a welcoming environment for diverse, non-traditional, and first-generation students so that they can see themselves on college campuses.
- Ensuring funding models and scholarship opportunities to make higher education affordable and accessible.
- Expand early college and dual enrollment initiatives to ensure that under-represented students begin their higher education journey and raise on-time degree completion rates.
- The importance of strong networks of support to help students succeed in transitioning to and graduating from college.



# Important Ideas Raised at the First Statewide Plan Advisory Council Meeting

## Improving Access and Outcomes

- The importance of P-20 connections and providing students with support throughout the transition to and through college.
- The benefits of college/grad/professional school students serving as models to younger peers.
- The importance of listening to student voices to identify and address challenges.
- The importance of reaching students earlier (in middle school) to foster career, societal, cultural and higher education pathways and exploration.

# Important Ideas Raised at the First Statewide Plan Advisory Council Meeting

## Preparing Students for Society and the Workforce

- The value of career and industry connections to allow for experiential learning opportunities.
- Creating partnerships between individual universities and districts, especially for areas where there is a workforce shortage (e.g., teaching).
- Ensuring students are trained in evidence-based research, academic projects, and clinical/fieldwork activities to navigate the widespread growth of information and misinformation on social media platforms.
- The need to share models and examples of doing things well in the field.
- The importance of financial literacy and social, emotional learning and supports.

# Important Ideas Raised at the First Statewide Plan Advisory Council Meeting

## Transforming in Response to Change

- The importance of research.
- The need for accurate data.
- College closures and impact on graduation rates for those transferred to new universities.
- The role of college campuses in the community (e.g., art opportunities).
- Reframing the discussion regarding nationwide trends of declining enrollment and fewer college-age students as an opportunity to reach out to underserved and non-traditional potential students and show that higher education is a welcoming place for them.

# Statewide Plan Timeline:

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- **Spring 2024:** Bulletin of the Statewide Plan distributed to colleges and higher education sectors.
- **Winter/Spring 2025:** First Advisory Council meeting, SED plans stakeholder engagement events, and SED starts collecting data for Statewide Plan.
- **April 2025:** Master plans due from SUNY, CUNY, CICU, and APC.
- **June 2025:** Second Advisory Council meeting.
- **Fall 2025:** SED updates Regents on Statewide Plan.
- **December 2025:** Third Advisory Council meeting to discuss draft of Statewide Plan.
- **Winter/Spring 2026:** Draft presented to Regents and public hearings on draft held.
- **Spring/Summer 2026:** Draft revised, presented to Regents, and reviewed at final Advisory Council meeting.
- **Fall 2026:** Statewide Plan approved by Regents and sent to the Governor.

# Questions and Next Steps



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