



Dear Colleagues,

During the past year, we have been working together to ensure our policies, our standards, and our assessments are of the highest quality and are in the best interest of our students. Experience has taught us that we must be thoughtful in our approach. Over the past few years, we have seen that rolling out new educational initiatives too quickly can result in confusion. Many of you have heard this message from the Commissioner when discussing the review of the English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards. If the educators doing the review say they need more time to get it right, she will listen. This work is too important to rush.

The same logic applies to all subjects, including Social Studies. We are writing to you today to let you know that we have asked the Board of Regents to allow us to use the 2017-18 school year as a transition year, giving educators across the State additional time to implement the new Social Studies Framework (see table below for a timeline). This transition year will also help us further refine the new exams before they are administered to our students for the first time. This means:

- x The 2017-18 school year will be a full transition year. During this time, the Regents Exam in Global History and Geography will maintain the current test design but will only measure content from approximately 1750 to present, reflecting the division articulated in the new Framework.
- x The new Global History and Geography Regents Exams based on the new Social Studies Framework will be field tested and vetted by New York State educators during the next two years. These new exams will then first be administered to students beginning in June 2019.
- x Decisions about the new U.S. History and Government Regents Exam based on the new Framework will be forthcoming.

We are proud of the work that has been done on the new Social Studies Framework and Toolkit. This new conceptualization of Social Studies is rich and complex, and thus difficult to measure. We need additional time to continue to involve our teachers in the process to be sure our new assessments accurately and fairly measure the content and practices articulated in the new Framework. We must also give our educators more time to implement fully these curriculum and assessment shifts. Our new implementation plan will ensure we have the time to make this happen.

Thank you, as always, for your continued service to our students.

