

A Pathways Concentration Model for Graduation

New York State Association for Career and Technical Education

SUMMARY

- This proposal is offered as a way to redesign the high school experience in New York. NYSACTE'S suggested Early High School Foundation and Commencement Concentration Pathway is informally known as the 15/7 Model.
- In 2014, the Board of Regents established five assessment pathways to graduation: Humanities, STEM, CTE, LOTE and Arts, with the 4+1 model of graduation assessments. This allowed for the substitutions of alternative assessments, such as industry-based assessments for selected Regents examinations.
- While this change was significant, NYSACTE believes more can be done to fully prepare students for career, college and civic readiness.
- Coursework and other experiences have remained the same for decades. If there is no change in the required coursework and other experiences, high schools will continue to offer the same courses and sequences they have for decades.
- Creating a concept of "pathways" introduces the notion that all students do not need identical learning experiences to demonstrate career, college and civic readiness. Personalization of learning can enhance student and parent engagement with choices that are more relevant to student interests and talents.
- Completion of each pathway should require a rigorous, coherent and sequential program of study to develop academic, technical and career/life competencies and the ability to challenge the assessments successfully.
- We must provide students with additional choice in courses and experiences as they pursue high school completion. New York State needs a serious redesign of high school to raise student engagement and graduation rates.
- Three key points in a student's secondary school experience are entry into middle school, entrance into grade 9 and entry into grades 11 and 12. NYSACTE recognizes the social, developmental and diverse needs of students that must be met at each point.
- The 15/7 Model proposed includes Middle Level Units of Study (7-8), Early High School Foundation (9-11) and Commencement Concentration Pathway (11-12).
- All students should have the assistance necessary to pursue graduation within the 15/7 model and have access to the CDOS pathway and credential as an alternative to demonstrate commencement level skills and abilities.