



December 17, 2024

Dear Roslyn Community,

We are writing to provide you with another important update regarding the recent regionalization discussions, as announced at the latest Board of Regents meeting on December 9, 2024.

The Board of Regents publicly stated that the regionalization regulation will be implemented as a voluntary initiative for districts at this time. This is a significant development, as it was clearly stated at the December 9th meeting of the Board of Regents that districts will retain local control over their schools. While we are encouraged by this articulated commitment to local governance, we want to assure you that we will continue to monitor the New York State Education Department's (NYSED) actions and regulatory language closely.

Our concern remains that the written language of the regulation does not completely align with NYSED's public comments about districts that opt out of the regionalization planning and implementation processes. The amended regulation indicates that participation in the regionalization *planning* process is optional, but does not address whether *implementation* will also be optional. The language change from mandatory to voluntary was deemed unsubstantial, (which is a regulatory term). We disagree with that characterization, because our concern is that the regulatory language may be easily reverted to mandatory. While we appreciate that NYSED made the regulation clearer in response to public comment, it is just not clear enough. Our goal is to ensure that there are no unintended consequences of the written regulatory language or for those districts that choose to opt out of regionalization.

In line with our commitment to maintaining local control and ensuring the best outcomes for our students, our district will respectfully notify NYSED of our decision to opt out of the regionalization process and implementation plan.

We also want to emphasize that Roslyn has and continues to be engaged in collaborative efforts with other districts and municipalities in a fiscally responsible manner without jeopardizing our local control under a mandate. These partnerships have led to substantial cost savings in areas that include special education services, transportation, cooperative bids for food, uniforms, and various services. We undertake these collaborations only when they are most beneficial to our students, programs, and taxpayers.

We have communicated to NYSED that neither a regulation nor an additional layer of State supervision is necessary for our resource conservation. We maintain unique strengths including initiative, motivation, and a clear understanding of our purpose and our community.

Thank you for your continued support. We will keep you informed as we continue to navigate this process and serve our school community.

Sincerely,

Meryl Waxman Ben-Levy
Board of Education President

Allison Brown
Superintendent of Schools