

## P-16 News& Notes

From Senior Deputy Commissioner Johanna Dunca n-Poitier  
December 20, 2007

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

With the holiday season upon us, I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you and your families, and your school communities a very happy holiday season. As we continue to carry out our commitment to helping you with your important work to help students to succeed and graduate, I also wanted to thank you for all of the support you have provided the Board of Regents and the State Education Department over the past year. All in addition to the time and energy you dedicate to your schools and your students, you routinely share your advice and expertise for helping to shape the future of education statewide. You have helped us to maximize the historic investment in education this year. You have worked with us to advance the Regents Education Plan. You have collaborated with colleges and universities to

## EXCELSIOR SCHOLARS PROGRAMS FOR GRADE SEVEN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE STUDENTS

The New York State Education Department is pleased to announce the availability of a \$5,000,000

## GRADE EIGHT ACCELERATION FOR DIPLOMA CREDIT

In response to questions we have recently received from the field, we wanted to take an opportunity to provide important clarifying information on the Part 100 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, which provide public school students in grade eight the opportunity to take high school courses in mathematics and in at least one of the following areas: English, social studies, languages other than English, art, music, career and technical education subjects or science courses.

- This provision was put in place to provide opportunities for individual students rather than as a vehicle for accelerating entire cohorts of students into high school courses.
- Superintendents or their designees shall determine whether an eighth grade student has demonstrated readiness to take high school courses. School districts are encouraged to develop and use written set of criteria to determine each student's readiness for acceleration.