READIN’ ‘RITIN’ ‘RITHMETIC

Regents — The Fourth “R”?

Using the speaker’s original professional context of being a high school math teacher for 15 years, we will briefly examine the history of NYS Regents exams in general, then we will look at changes in the exams themselves, both from broad and specific disciplinary perspectives. Actual Regents exams questions will be shared for participants’ consideration, and to facilitate topical and historical dialogue among those in attendance. Trends in these exams, and possible causal factors, will be discussed.

Some questions to consider regarding this topic:

1. Does a certain level of performance on a NYS Regents exam effectively communicate a student’s knowledge of the subject matter it represents?
2. Are changes to NYS Regents exams necessary, either in scope or in content?
3. Is the depth of NYS Regents exam questions consistent across content areas, and at various levels within content areas?
4. What is the public perception of NYS Regents exams?
5. To what extent are NYS Regents exams affected by politics?