

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

# Disciplined Inquiry in Education Seminar Series

September 3 , 2025/Noon-1:00 p.m.

Literacy Center Balcony

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## **“It’s Up to You, New York (Schools)”: A Retrospective Case Study of Pandemic-Era Education Policies**

**Abstract.** The New York State Education Department (NYSED) issued 68 policy statements during the first five months of the pandemic. Analyzing the timing and theme of each policy exposed that issues related to finances and accountability were communicated with double the frequency than issues related to instruction, health, or special education. The presenter draws on her experience as a school principal during the pandemic to offer novel insights on these policy statements that forever altered the job of the principal. Implications for crisis preparedness and the broader role of schools in society are discussed. This retrospective analysis will also look at the 2024 official release of the After Action Report of New York State’s overall handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, citing implications for educational practice.

