

## NEW from the New York State Education Department

NYSED has released the New York State Preliminary Draft of Mentoring Standards for public review and comment. To view a letter from Deputy Commissioner Joseph Frey, the preliminary draft standards and the web response form click on this direct link <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/memos/memo110609.html> . The deadline for comment is January 15, 2010

### **2010 Olympics of the Visual Arts(OVA)**

OVA provides an opportunity for students to participate in individual or group artistic problem solving. A new series of challenges is posed every fall. Students create long-range solutions at their schools, and travel to the Albany area to compete in a day-long celebration of creativity. There are awards for each of the "problem categories" at every level. Artistic problem solving is a great way to get students learning, experiencing and creating! The Olympics of the Visual Arts will be held at the Saratoga Springs Civic Center, Saratoga Springs, New York on Thursday, April 15, 2010. Registration forms must be postmarked by February 15, 2010. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.nysata.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=87223>

### **A Consumer's Guide to Reading Comprehension Assessments for Adolescents**

Measure for Measure: A Critical Consumer's Guide to Reading Comprehension Assessments for Adolescents  
This guide draws together evidence on nine of the most commonly used, commercially available reading comprehension assessments for use with adolescents. It provides a critical view into the strengths and weaknesses of each. Authors Lelia Morsy, Michael Kieffer, and Catherine Snow focus on the utility of assessments for the purposes of screening groups of students to identify those who struggle and diagnosing their specific needs. The guide is available at [http://www.carnegie.org/literacy/tta/pdf/tta\\_Morsy.pdf](http://www.carnegie.org/literacy/tta/pdf/tta_Morsy.pdf) .


### **Education Law- Sect. 809 Instruction in the Humane Treatment of Animals**

School districts are reminded to review Education Law Section 809 - Instruction in the Humane Treatment of Animals on an annual basis. The provisions of the law can be accessed on the Department's website at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/mst/sci/news.html> . Certain specified types of lessons or experimental studies on live vertebrate animals require submission of an application for a waiver from the Commissioner of Education. Information regarding the §809(5) Treatment of Live Vertebrate Animals and the waiver process, including an application form can be accessed at [http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/mst/science/809\\_5waiver.htm](http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/mst/science/809_5waiver.htm)

### **Changes to the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English**

The State Education Department's Office of State Assessment has issued a memo regarding changes to the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English. The first administration of the new three-hour, one-day Regents Comprehensive Examination in English will take place in January 2011. This examination will replace the current two-session examination that will continue to be administered during each Regents examination period prior to January 2011. Additional information, including test specifications, is included in the memo <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/retest/specs-cr-eng.pdf> (pdf)

### **January 2010 Testing Schedule**

The January 2010 NYSED Testing Schedule is now available at: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/schedules/504-0110.pdf> (  81.01KB)

### **Teachers TV: Online Professional Development**

New training sessions focus on using Teachers TV as a resource to support professional development, as well as a training tool for use with new and existing staff in schools. For more information visit <http://www.teachers.tv/training>