

SUBMISSION OF A MODEL B, C – 1 OR C – 2 APPLICATION FOR MIDDLE-LEVEL REGULATORY RELIEF

In May 2004, the New York State Board of Regents adopted amendments to sections of Commissioner’s Regulations 100.3 and 100.4. The amendments provide an opportunity for school districts to apply to the New York State Education Department for flexibility in providing middle-level programs. The regulations outline a three model middle-level strategy to implement the Regents Policy Statement of Middle-Level Education that was adopted by the Regents in February 2004. The three model strategy provides a series of options based upon need and capacity of a district and a school to adapt its curriculum and instructional practices.

HIGHLIGHTS

The application must:

- Be reviewed by the district Shared Decision-Making Committee
- Not conflict with collective bargaining agreements
- Indicate that all subjects are taught by appropriately certified teachers.

THE MODELS AND ELIGIBILITY

MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION MODELS A, B, C

MODEL	ACADEMICS	ELIGIBILITY
A	Comply with Existing Regulations. Districts and schools with middle-level grades (grades 5, 6, 7, 8) continue to comply with the current regulations, making full use of the existing flexibility provisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All schools with middle grades are eligible • No application is required
B	Strengthening the Academic Core. Districts, on behalf of their schools with middle-level grades propose a program that strengthens core academic subjects and effective academic intervention services and ensures that all students receive instruction in those standards areas where there are no required State assessments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools that are newly formed or: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are identified as a school requiring academic progress (SRAP) in year 3, 4 or 5, including a school identified for school improvement for three or more consecutive years under 20 U.S.C. section 6316(b). - A school under registration review (SURR) pursuant to section 100.2(p) of Commissioner’s Regulations
C	Build on Success: Develop Next Generation Schools and Programs. Districts on behalf of their schools with middle-level grades, propose either new ideas for restructuring the full education program (Model C-1) or specific program refinements or enhancements in an area where there are not required state assessments (Model C-2).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools that are newly formed or: • Schools that do not meet the Model B criteria may submit a Model C-1 or C-2 application

ADVICE FOR LOCAL LEADERS

- The cover page of the application states that Model B, C – 1, and C – 2 applications must not conflict with the collective bargaining agreements. ***Please make sure that if you know or suspect that your schools housing any combination of grades 6, 7 and 8 will be applying for regulatory relief that the application adheres to your collective bargaining agreement.***
- All courses must be taught by teachers certified in those content areas. If mini courses or integrated courses are part of the application, the standards areas must be taught by the appropriately certified teacher.
- The district Shared Decision-Making (SDM) committee must review any application before it is sent out. Any application must have a letter from the SDM stating either its approval of the application as written or a letter stating its opposition. ***It is imperative that you make sure this phase of the application process is completed.***
- The district must fill out the Middle-Level Indicators of Achievement Checklist for the non-tested areas. Your members who teach visual arts, music, home and career skills, technology education, library media, health education and physical education should be involved in the review of their subjects.
- If you believe that your schools housing grades 6, 7 and 8 will be applying for regulatory relief and you have not been notified, or the members of the district SDM team have not reviewed the application and the teachers of the non-tested areas have not been involved with the review of their subject, contact your administration to verify the status of the application. If your local has not been involved and the application has been sent, please notify NYSUT's Research and Educational Services.
- The following websites have the documents and information needed by districts and schools to apply for regulatory relief:

NYSED Middle-Level Education Home page and Model application link
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/mle/middle.html>

NYSED Middle level Indicators of Achievement Checklists
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/mle/clmemo.htm>