

## PBAT= Performance Based Assessment Task

- Students complete written tasks that require extensive reading, writing, and revising and are then presented orally for external evaluation. The tasks grow out of curriculum and classroom discussions and allow for student contribution and choice.
- Most high schools in NYS take Regents Exams every year. School Without Walls (SWW) does NOT because they are part of the Consortium Schools of NYS. Students still get a Regents Diploma because we have a waiver from the state.
- SWW students are only required to take ONE Regents exam-the ELA Regents Exam
- ALL SWW students are required to complete FOUR graduation level PBATs-one for each CORE subject [math, science, english and social studies]. These are required to graduate.
  - Math-problem-solving at higher levels of mathematics
  - Science-original experiment written as a scientific paper
  - English-literary analysis paper
  - Social Studies-Research paper based on a thesis
- PBATs consist of a written paper and an oral "defense" in front of a committee.
- PBAT Papers must receive a passing score from two teachers of that subject area BEFORE a student continues to the oral "defense".
- Oral "defense"(presentation)-students must present/explain their paper and answer questions relating to their work to a committee including two teachers of the subject and one community expert in the subject.
- Both the PAPER and the ORAL DEFENSE are scored using a rubric from the Consortium.
- The graduation level PBATs are usually completed in the students' junior year with the exception of English which is completed in their senior year.
- Students who come in with a Regents exam are waived from having to do an oral "defense" of their PBAT in front of a committee but still must complete the PBAT work as the work is built into the classes at SWW (and better prepare them for college).

- Please be aware: PBAT work in the students' classes are usually considered major assignments and carry a large portion of the student's grade for the marking period they are completed in.
- PBATs are not done elsewhere in the district so if students do not get the necessary work done, it is difficult to get funding for us to hold summer school just for SWW.

### Why complete PBATs instead of Regents?

- **The New York Performance Standards Consortium** was founded two decades ago on the belief that there was a better way to assess student learning than dependence upon standardized testing.
- Instead of basing a student's future on a one-day (or two- or three-day) test [Regents Exam], an assessment system should reflect a fuller picture of what students know and can do.
- The Consortium's system is based on in-depth projects (PBAT) in the four core subjects of English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. These projects involve a lot of time and effort for students to produce quality work.
- literacy, mathematical problem-solving, application of the scientific method, social studies research, a span of mediums for exhibiting learning, and a chance for students to have a voice and proud ownership of their work.

The New York Performance Standards Consortium is a coalition of New York State public secondary schools that has developed a proven practitioner-developed, student-focused performance assessment system for its 38 member schools in New York City and State. This includes SWW! The Consortium's system is to meet graduation requirements in lieu of high stakes testing (REGENTS). The system's main components are:

- Practitioner-designed and student-focused assessment tasks
- External evaluators for written and oral student work

Additional components include an emphasis on:

- Inquiry-based teaching and learning
- Discussion-based classrooms