



**Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for  
Operations & Chief Operating Officer**

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[www.suny.edu](http://www.suny.edu)

February 1, 2024

Ms. Nadine Morrell  
Audit Director  
Office of the State Comptroller  
Division of State Government Accountability  
110 State Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, New York 12236-001

Re: Audit Report 2021-S-42

Dear Ms. Morrell:

In accordance with Section 170 of the Executive Law, this is SUNY's 180-day response showing actions taken to address the recommendations contained in the State Comptroller's Audit Report of Oversight of Disability Services, State University of New York (2021-S-42).

SUNY remains committed to providing the highest quality educational services, with the broadest possible access, fully representative of all segments of the population by means of a range of academic, professional, and vocational postsecondary programs. SUNY has recently committed \$10 million to support students who identify with disabilities. The funds will be used for hiring staff to mitigate barriers and support students with disabilities, purchasing accessibility technology, enhancing physical space, and providing professional development to staff, among other initiatives.

SUNY is proud that OSC's audit found SUNY is providing access and academic accommodations to all students who identify as having a disability and all building and structures were fully compliant with ADA standards. OSC issued four recommendations to encourage the continuance of our endeavors and to address two isolated procedural observations. A status update for each recommendation follows.

**Recommendation #1** Continue to work with SED to provide training and education to campuses to accurately and consistently report data on students with disabilities regarding NYSED's reporting requirements.

SUNY agrees with this recommendation and hosted two trainings with NYSED in 2023. A spring 2024 NYSED training is being planned. Additionally, the Director of Resources for Students with Disabilities at SUNY System Administration coordinated a conference for SUNY campuses's disability professionals in January 2024. A sample of topics presented include related legislation, electronic information technology accessibility, legal matters, and financial services. In addition, a Institutional Research held a session to review SUNY data regarding students with disabilities and the NYSED survey.

**Recommendation #2** Maintain sufficient documentation for students with disabilities that don't follow through with the process to request and obtain accommodations.

SUNY agrees with the recommendation and the single campus identified has implemented procedures for all accommodation requests and processing that include: creating a file for each student who inquires regarding accommodations; as needed, up to three written reminders to finish the process are sent to each student and these reminders are maintained in the files; maintaining files documenting requests by students who decline accommodations and for those who are nonresponsive. Passive (nonresponsive) and active declinations can be re-activated by students, as noted to students in the final reminder issued.

**Recommendation #3** Accurately and consistently report students with disabilities in accordance with SED requirements.

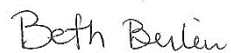
SUNY agrees with this recommendation and the single campus identified has already enhanced processes to ensure compliance with reporting requirements, including all self-reported students regardless of whether accommodations are pursued/accepted.

**Recommendation #4** Continue to actively evaluate and improve accessibility and incorporate the potential improvement opportunities where feasible.

SUNY agrees with the recommendation and will continue to actively evaluate and improve accessibility and will incorporate potential improvement areas identified by the audit when feasible.. As noted in the final audit response, SUNY campuses have formal ADA plans for its facilities, and all opportunities are considered and prioritized.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact me at (518) 320-1266.

Sincerely,



Beth Berlin  
Chief Operating Officer

cc. Chancellor King, Ms. Montalbano  
Governor Hochul  
Lieutenant Governor DelGado  
Senator Stewart-Cousins  
Comptroller DiNapoli  
Speaker Heastie  
Senator O'Mara

Senator Krueger  
Senator Ortt  
Assemblymember Weinstein  
Assemblymember Ra  
Assemblymember Barclay  
Assemblymember Peoples-Stokes  
Mr. Washington