



**TO:** P-12 Education Committee  
**FROM:** Angelica Infante-Green *A. Infante*  
**SUBJECT:** Update on Regents Exams Workgroup  
**DATE:** December 7, 2015  
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## SUMMARY

### Issue for Discussion

The Board of Regents will be provided with an update on the Workgroup convened to advise on technical and policy aspects of the Common Core Regents Exams.

### Background Information

At their September 2015 meeting, the Board of Regents directed Department staff to convene a workgroup to advise on several technical and policy issues surrounding score interpretation and reporting for the Common Core Regents Exams.<sup>1</sup> In an advisory role, workgroup members will provide written and verbal feedback to the Department on resources, policies, and implementation strategies surrounding the reporting of Regents Exam results. The workgroup consists of 15 members and includes classroom teachers, building administrators, district-level personnel and senior administrators from SUNY and CUNY.

The Workgroup met for the first time on November 2, 2015, for an all-day meeting in Albany. Members were welcomed and given the charge of the Workgroup, based on the Board of Regents' direction from their September 2015 meeting. A presentation on the history of the Regents Exams and some background on their development were provided to Workgroup members. Finally, a sampling of the types of comments that have been received by the Department through conversations with educators and parents were shared to set the context for discussing the technical and

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/meetings/Sep%202015/915p12d1.pdf>

policy aspects of the Regents Exams for which the Workgroup may want to make recommendations.

The discussions of the Workgroup were thoughtful and covered many different aspects of the Regents Exams. At the conclusion of the meeting, members had identified several issues that they would like to continue to discuss and likely make recommendations on at future meetings. Additionally, the Workgroup requested that Department staff gather information to be brought to the next meeting including Regents Exam results data, previous research studies, technical overviews of the Regents Exam program, and information related to how colleges are using Regents Exam results.

The issues that the Workgroup identified for further discussion fall into the following categories:

- Issues related to the full implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards for the Class of 2022
- Issues related to the raw-to-scale score transformations (i.e., conversion charts)
- Issues related to the performance level cut scores and percentage of students in each performance level
- Issues related to the predictive ability of the Regents Exams for future success
- Issues related to the content and types of questions found on the Regents Exams

The Workgroup has scheduled two meetings for the upcoming months to review the information gathered by Department staff and continue the discussions on the issues identified above.

### **Next Steps**

The Workgroup will continue to meet over the next several months and will draft recommendations to the Department for consideration by the Commissioner. Additional updates will be provided to the Board of Regents as the Workgroup continues their discussions.