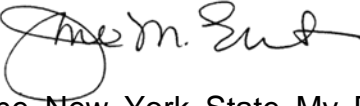





**TO:** P-12 Education Committee

**FROM:** Jhone M. Ebert 

**SUBJECT:** Discussion of the New York State My Brother's Keeper Initiative

**DATE:** November 29, 2018

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

## SUMMARY

### Issue for Discussion

The Department will present the P-12 Committee with an update on the various components of the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Initiative in the areas of the Challenge Grant, Teacher Opportunity Corps, Family and Community Engagement Grants, MBK Fellows Grant, Native American Program Grant, Exemplary Schools and Model Practices Grant., and the latest initiative from the My Brother's Keeper Alliance that involves the Department.

### Reason(s) for Consideration

For information.

### Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the P-12 Education Committee for discussion at the December 2018 meeting.

### Procedural History

Not applicable.

## **Background Information**

In April 2015, the New York State Board of Regents accepted President Obama's challenge to address persistent challenges and achievement gaps faced by young men of color. Further, the Board agreed to implement a cradle-to-college and career strategy to improve outcomes for boys and young men of color.

The New York State My Brother's Keeper (NYSMBK) initiative is designed to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by young men of color and ensure that all young people reach their full potential. It includes the six national milestones listed below and six specific priorities that New York State is supporting.

### National Milestones

1. Getting a healthy start and entering school ready to learn;
2. Reading at grade level by third grade;
3. Graduating from high school ready for college and career;
4. Completing postsecondary education or training;
5. Entering the workforce successfully; and
6. Growing up in safe communities and getting a second chance if mistakes are made.

In addition to supporting the six milestones set at the national level, the NYSMBK initiative is also committed to:

1. Ensuring equitable access to high quality schools and programs;
2. Expanding prevention, early warning, and intervention services;
3. Using differentiated approaches based on need and culture;
4. Responding to structural and institutional racism;
5. Making comprehensive and coordinated support services widely available; and
6. Engaging families and communities in a trusted and respectful way.

To fulfill its charge, the New York State Education Department has undertaken six funded outcome-based initiatives intended to remove the conditions and circumstances that hinder the performance and consequently, the opportunities for boys and young men of color across New York State. They are:

## **MBK Challenge Grant**

Purpose: To incentivize and support school districts to accept the My Brother's Keeper Challenge and implement a coherent cradle-to-college strategy aimed at improving the life outcomes for boys and young men of color.

This program just completed its first full year of funding and is in the third year of a three-year cycle (2016-2019). The grant funds eligible school districts to address one or more of the six milestones. The annual funding for My Brother's Keeper Challenge Grant is \$7,000,000.

## **Family and Community Engagement Grant**

Purpose: To increase the academic achievement and college and career readiness of boys and young men of color by developing and sustaining effective relationships with families and the community toward the goal of student success.

This program is in the third year of a four-year cycle (2016-2020). There are 45 school districts being served through the Family and Community Engagement grant. The allocation for 2018-2019 is \$6,000,000 with maximum individual annual grant awards of \$150,000.

## **Teacher Opportunity Corps II (TOC II)**

Purpose: To increase the number of underrepresented individuals in the teaching field and to prepare future teachers to address the diverse needs of students in high need districts.

The TOC II program operates on 16 college campuses across New York State. The participating institutions have developed partnerships with more than 50 districts and/or schools. All TOC II students take relevant courses and receive training, mentoring, and other supports that are designed to prepare students to become culturally responsive educators. The program is in the second year of a five-year cycle. The funding allocation for 2018-19 is \$3,000,000.

## **Exemplary School Models and Practices RFP**

Purpose: To close the achievement gap and increase both the academic achievement and college and career readiness of students, with an emphasis on boys and young men of color.

The Department has identified five schools that have demonstrated their ability to achieve this and then to link with another school that has similar demographics but is not yet having the same success. The funding for the 2018-19 year is \$3,653,415.

## **MBK Fellows Program**

Purpose: To provide 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade high school students, with an emphasis on boys and young men of color, with opportunities to gain authentic leadership experience(s) and develop service projects beneficial to the schools they attend and the communities they live in.

There are thirty-six MBK Fellows representing eighteen MBK communities around the State.

## **MBK Native American Program**

Purpose: To incentivize and support school districts to accept the My Brother's Keeper initiative and implement a coherent cradle-to-college/career strategy aimed at improving the life outcomes for disadvantaged youth, particularly Native American boys and young men.

NYSMBK is in its second full year of funding and there is a lot to be proud of. NYSMBK communities have grown from five in year one to twenty-three communities and seven Tribal Nations.

Going forward, NYSMBK will continue to focus on outcomes; build on targeted investments; share the research-based practices that remove and mitigate barriers to success for poor and working-class youth; and encourage local sharing of the resources available in each MBK community to strengthen the creative safety net that we have collaboratively built in support of boys and young men of color.

Additionally, NYSMBK has been invited to participate in the My Brother's Keeper Alliance National Summit in Oakland, CA this coming February. NYSMBK has been asked to conduct a mainstage feature presentation as well as a 75-minute breakout session for the attendees. Finally, we have been asked to have some of our fellows give 3-minute Ted Talk style presentations on their MBK Fellows experience.

Connecting boys and young men of color to a pipeline of opportunity is not only fiscally responsible, it is a moral imperative.