



TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: Angelica Infante-Green *A. Infante - Green*
SUBJECT: Update on Regents Exams Workgroup
DATE: June 6, 2016
AUTHORIZATION(S): *MaryEllen Ecia*
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.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Regents P-12 Education Committee for discussion at the June 2016 meeting.

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.¹ An update was provided to the Board in December 2015.² In an advisory role, workgroup members will provide written and verbal feedback to the Commissioner of Education 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.

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

² See <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1215p12d2.pdf>

The Workgroup has met several times since its creation and has engaged in thoughtful discussions covering many different aspects of the Regents Exams. Recent discussions have focused on the role of Regents Exams in graduation and interpretations of scores of Regents Exams. In addition, the Workgroup reviewed relevant data from the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core) and recommended that scale maintenance be performed such that the passing standard is realigned with the recommendations of the educator panel from June 2014 when the exam was first administered. The Workgroup recommended the maintenance for the June 2016 administration of the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core) and that the resulting adjustment be applied to this and future administrations only. The Commissioner accepted the recommendations from the Workgroup and directed Department staff to perform the scale maintenance and issue a communication regarding the maintenance.

Next Steps

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