



**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** William P. Murphy *William Murphy*

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Amendment to Section 80-1.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Creating Safety Nets for the Arts Content Specialty Tests (CSTs)

**DATE:** July 2, 2020

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *Murphy* *Sharon L. Tabor*

### SUMMARY

#### **Issue for Discussion**

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed amendment to Section 80-1.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education creating safety nets for the Arts Content Specialty Tests (CSTs)?

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Review of Policy.

#### **Proposed Handling**

The proposed amendment is submitted to the Full Board for discussion at its July 2020 Regents meeting (Attachment A is a copy of the proposed amendment).

#### **Procedural History**

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on July 29, 2020. Supporting materials for the proposed amendment are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

#### **Background Information**

At its September 2017 meeting, the Board of Regents approved the implementation of the New York State P-12 Learning Standards for the Arts in all schools beginning July 1, 2018. The approval of the new standards prompted the Department to redevelop the Content Specialty Tests (CSTs) for certification in Dance, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts. Through

the test redevelopment process, the test frameworks and items were redeveloped to ensure that candidates for certification in the arts subject areas can demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities reflected in the new standards.

It is anticipated that the revised CSTs in Dance, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts will become operational in November 2020. The test frameworks for the revised Arts CSTs are available online for candidates and teacher preparation programs to assist in the preparation of candidates for the redeveloped tests.

### **Proposed Amendment**

The Department is proposing to create a safety net for the CSTs in Dance, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts that would become effective when the revised CSTs in Dance, Music, Teacher and Visual Arts become operational. When available, a candidate would be able to take either the applicable revised CST or the applicable predecessor CST in Dance, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts for one year after the revised CSTs become operational. The proposed safety nets allow candidates to be held harmless during the one-year transition period from the predecessor CSTs to the revised CSTs.

### **Related Regents Items**

September 2017: [New York P-12 Learning Standards for the Arts \(Dance, Music, Theater, Visual and Media Arts\)](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/917p12a1.pdf)  
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/917p12a1.pdf>)

### **Recommendation**

Not applicable.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

Following the 60-day public comment period required under the State Administrative Procedure Act, it is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented to the Board of Regents for adoption at its October 2020 meeting. If adopted at the October 2020 meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on November 4, 2020.

**Attachment A**

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to Education Law sections 207, 305, 3001, 3003, 3004 and 3009.

1. Subparagraph (vi) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of section 80-1.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education shall be added to read as follows:

(vi) When the revised content specialty examination(s) in dance, music, theater and visual arts become available, a candidate may take either the applicable revised content specialty examination or the applicable predecessor content specialty examination in dance, music, theater and visual arts, for one year after the applicable revised content specialty examination(s) become operational.