




TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: MaryEllen Elia

SUBJECT: Appointment of Associate Commissioner for the Office of Accountability

DATE: September 12, 2017

AUTHORIZATIONS: 

Issue for Decision

Will the Board of Regents approve my appointment of Ira Schwartz to the position of Associate Commissioner for the Office of Accountability?

Reason for Consideration

Ira will bring to the Associate Commissioner position extensive knowledge and experience in developing and implementing State level policy, regulations, and legislation in areas such as school and district accountability, school improvement, teacher and principal evaluation, charter schools, and Federal grant programs. Ira has been with the Department for over 35 years. He began with the Department as an Education Programmer. He has also served as the Coordinator for the Office of Accountability and Policy and then as Assistant Commissioner. Ira launched the Office of Accountability which oversees the Department's efforts to turn around low-performing schools. Under Ira's leadership, he successfully led the design and managed New York's \$700 million Race to the Top application and grant and the design of New York's ESEA Flexibility waiver. Currently, Ira is the lead on the Department's application for the USDE ESSA plan. Ira's extensive experience and vast knowledge of school accountability will make him an asset as he serves in this role.

Proposed Handling

The Board of Regents will review Mr. Schwartz's credentials and experience in Executive Session on September 12, 2017.

Recommendation

I recommend that you take the following action:

VOTED, that the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Ira Schwartz to the position of Associate Commissioner for the Office of Accountability.