



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
Acting in their Capacity as Trustees of The University of
the State of New York

FROM: Valerie Grey, Fiscal Agent *Valerie Grey*

SUBJECT: Acceptance of a \$600,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda
Gates Foundation

DATE: November 30, 2011

AUTHORIZATION(S):

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "G. J. S.", written over a horizontal line.

Issue for Decision

Approval of a \$600,000 grant to The University of the State of New York Regents Research Fund from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the "Gates Foundation"). The Gates Foundation supports clear, consistent college- and career-ready standards that establish what students at every grade level need to know in order to be prepared for success beyond high school. They are committed to working with state and district partners to develop tools aligned to the standards that can help teachers identify and address student learning gaps.

Reason(s) for Consideration

This grant from the Gates Foundation is awarded to develop, pilot, and evaluate innovative approaches to Common Core aligned professional development for New York State teachers. This grant will help to fund a team to research, analyze and implement the best approaches to support Common Core professional development, with a particular emphasis on the role that online professional development can play. This support will play a critical role in advancing the Reform Agenda goal of ensuring college and career readiness for New York State's high school graduates by helping teachers to implement world class common standards and use sequenced, spiraled, content-rich curricula.

Proposed Handling

Approval