



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 

SUBJECT: Approval of a \$892,500 eight month grant from The Bill &
Melinda Gates Foundation to support NYS Common Core
Standards and Assessment Planning

DATE: November 16, 2010

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

Issue for Decision

Approval of a \$892,000 eight month grant to The University of the State of New York Regents Research Fund.

Reason(s) for Consideration

This award will support the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), a key component of the Regents reform agenda. The funding will support Regents Research Fund Fellows work in developing recommendations to the Regents for the new standards to drive increases in educator effectiveness. As you know, as part of Race to the Top, the statewide curriculum and formative and interim assessments tools will be aligned to the Common Core; teachers will be prepared to teach the Common Core using the State's curriculum; pre-service and in-service professional development will focus on teaching and assessing students on the skills and knowledge within the Common Core; and our teachers and principals will be evaluated based in part on their ability to drive student achievement gains as measured by summative assessments aligned to the Common Core.

This work will also focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) so that we can prepare more students for advanced study and careers in STEM through the development of a statewide curriculum in math and also in science, and through the design and implementation of a blended grades 3-8 science testing program. It will include integration of computer-based assessment and take advantage of advances in computer technology to stage lab simulations, conduct data analysis, and test scientific hypotheses.

Proposed Handling

Decision

Recommendation

The Board of Regents approve acceptance of the \$892,500 grant from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for common core standards assessment planning.