



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

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

FROM: Mary Drzonsc, Fiscal Agent

SUBJECT: Acceptance of a \$200,000 grant from The Bill and Melinda
Gates Foundation

DATE: November 14, 2016

AUTHORIZATION(S):

Issue for Decision

Approval of a \$200,000 grant to The University of the State of New York Regents Research Fund from the Foundation. The Foundation's educational mission is to dramatically improve education so that all young people have the opportunity to reach their full potential. The Foundation seeks to ensure that all students graduate from high school ready for college and career and prepared to complete a postsecondary degree or certificate with value in the workplace.

Reason(s) for Consideration

The grant from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is to continue an engagement with Education First in improving New York's Professional Learning System. This investment will assist the Department in continuing to lay the groundwork for the launch of a new professional learning structure that will enable the development of high quality, consistent professional development across New York State, giving all educators access to the tools and standards-based knowledge needed to transform their classroom practice.

The Department has partnered with Education First to help us bring key stakeholders to the table to develop the plans to make this new professional learning structure a reality. This investment will allow the partnership with Education First to continue until the end of March 2017. Between now and then, Education First will help the Department do broader and deeper engagement around and communication about this new professional learning structure.

Proposed Handling

Approval

Recommendation

That the Board of Regents accept the sum of \$200,000 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support the work outlined above.