



TO: P-12 Education Committee
Cultural Education Committee

FROM: Elizabeth R. Berlin *Elizabeth R. Berlin*
Angelica Infante-Greene *A. Infante-Greene*

SUBJECT: Update on the Blue Ribbon Commission for the Arts

DATE: December 1, 2016

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Mary Ellen Eina*

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Staff will provide an update to the Board of Regents on the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission for the Arts.

Background Information

Following the 2014 decision to create 4+1 Assessment Pathways, the Board of Regents directed Department staff to convene a Blue Ribbon Commission for the Arts to examine how other states provide pathways to graduation in the arts, to determine the role of assessment in this pathway, and to evaluate assessments used to measure student achievement in the arts.

The 56 member Commission consists of educators and artists knowledgeable about arts education and arts assessment, including representatives from New York educator associations in the arts, postsecondary institutions, and arts industry partners. In addition, a group of nationally recognized experts in the field of arts assessment provided technical expertise to the Blue Ribbon Commission Executive Committee. The Blue Ribbon Executive Committee consists of 16 members who began work in July 2015 and met a total of four times through October 2015. They collaborated with the national experts to discuss current models of assessment in the arts and to review options for arts pathway assessments.

The Blue Ribbon Commission for the Arts charge to conduct a review of currently available arts assessments, evaluate these assessments against the criteria established by Commissioner's Regulation §100.2(mm), and make recommendations to the

Department regarding arts assessments was completed and presented to the full Commission in November 2015 with the New York Arts Pathway Assessment System report.

The focus of the Blue Ribbon Commission has been the identification of multiple pathway assessments in the arts that may be used by students in New York for the +1 assessment option. The Department does not intend to prescribe a pathway or identify one state assessment in the arts. By providing multiple assessment options, we can ensure districts have the flexibility to create pathways and choose a pathway assessment that is most appropriate for students pursuing their locally developed pathway. The Commission considered assessments that are available immediately as well as made recommendations for a long term strategy to increase access to arts pathways and high quality arts assessments.

Update on the Work of the Blue Ribbon Commission for the Arts

At the June 2016 meeting, the Commission was updated on the approved transitional assessment options for the Arts 4+1 Pathway (AP & IB). Four Arts Blue Ribbon sub-committees were formed. They are currently working toward these goals:

PHASE I - Transitional NY Arts Assessments

- **School Arts Program Waivers**

This option would offer a program waiver process to permit high schools with high-quality arts education programs to apply for a programmatic waiver that would apply to all students who participate in and successfully complete the high school's program requirements to meet the Arts Pathway requirement. This sub-committee is coordinating with the state's arts education associations and higher education institutions to assist with the development of the School Program Waivers criteria and process.

- **Student Developed Portfolios**

This option will offer a process for students to be able to submit their evidence of Pathway-level achievement thereby waiving the necessity of a Regents exam. The procedures for this process needs to be determined, including the types of student evidence to be submitted, how this work is submitted, who reviews the work, and what criteria are used to judge the work. While this is a Phase 1 transitional activity, this work could help to define the procedures and criteria to be used in the Individual Arts Assessment Plan (IAAP) in Phase 2 (see below).

- **NYS Arts Commencement- General Education Level (C-GEL) Assessments**

This transitional option could serve as a model for through-course and end-of-course assessment. This is a foundation level assessment in all four disciplines and would be accessible to all NYS students.

PHASE II - Long Term NYS Arts Assessment

- **The Individual Arts Assessment Plan (IAAP)**

A "capstone" or culminating project protocol defined collaboratively by the student and her/his instructors to display a student's achievements as a result of instruction and experience. This is the gold star goal for arts assessment in NYS.

IAAP Framework Development - Focus Groups across the state are developing the student and educator protocols for the Individual Arts Assessment

Plan, developing model IAAP's and creating a plan for moderating collections of student work through consensus from the high school through-course and end-of-course assessments and the Individual Arts Assessment Plan.

State-created model end-of-course examinations. NYSED is developing these from existing course-level assessments in New York - IAAP Focus Groups participation only at this time.

Overall Considerations

- It is essential that the State define which standards each assessment (selected or developed) is to measure.
- Assessments used must be aligned to these standards.
- Evidence of assessment quality must be a major criterion for the selection of assessments.
- Balance different approaches to assessment, using through-course/end-of-course assessments and the Individual Arts Assessments Plan capstone project.

Statewide Strategic Plan for the Arts

The strategic plan includes mission and vision statements and incorporates four critical components that need to be addressed if new arts standards and assessments are adopted and/or existing standards/assessments are updated: Standards, Professional Development to Enhance Instruction (Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction), Materials and Resource Support, and Administrative and Community Support. This draft strategic plan (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/arts/>) has been shared with members of the education field who were invited to provide feedback for consideration related to the strategic plan's goals, objectives, and activities in a survey available online August until October 1, 2016. After full analysis of the survey data, recommendations have been incorporated into a revised plan ready to be presented to the Board of Regents for adoption.

Next Steps

- Department staff will present the revised Strategic Plan for the Arts for Board of Regents approval.
- Department staff will survey the field on draft standards in Dance, Music, Theatre, Visual and Media Arts and work with teams of writers to finalize revised NYS Learning Standards for the Arts for Board of Regents approval.
- The Blue Ribbon Commission's Co-Chairs will convene the Executive Committee as the subcommittees are ready to report their findings and the Commission will submit further recommendations to the Commissioner for additional approved arts assessments.
- It is recommended that the Board of Regents vote to align the arts education requirements in CR 100.5(b)(7)(iv)(e) with all other content areas.

Related Regent's Items

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/914p12d5.pdf>

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/meetings/Mar%202015/315p12a1.pdf>