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

TO:	P-12 Education Committee
FROM:	Angelica Infante-Green
SUBJECT:	Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Computer-Based Testing (CBT)
DATE:	December 1, 2016
AUTHORIZATION(S):	

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Provide the Board of Regents with an update on the implementation of Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Computer-Based Testing (CBT).

Reason(s) for Consideration

The Department continues to transition to CBT as part of its commitment to both meeting the needs of 21st century learners and improving test delivery, test integrity, scoring validity, and turn-around time on testing results. To facilitate a successful transition to CBT, the Department will provide guidance, technical assistance, resources, and tools to help students, educators, and families transition from paper-and-pencil testing to CBT over the next few years.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the P-12 Education Committee for discussion at the December 2016 meeting.

Background Information

In March 2012, the Department committed to developing a plan to transition from paper-and-pencil testing to CBT. In 2015, the Department awarded a five-year contract to Questar Assessment, Inc. to develop the State's 3-8 ELA and Mathematics tests and provide all schools with the option of administering these tests on computers.

In the 2015-16 school year, schools had the option to administer the stand-alone field tests on computer. The Department encouraged schools to participate in computer-based

field testing to help them determine if they had the necessary devices and infrastructure to fully participate in operational CBT. Approximately 800 schools and 60,000 students participated in the spring 2016 computer-based stand-alone field tests.

After the field-testing window, the Department, along with Questar, held numerous regional forums to gather feedback on the CBT experience. The forums included educators, administrators, IT coordinators, and representatives from Regional Information Centers (RICs), BOCES, and Big 5 City School Districts. From these forums and from feedback received directly from schools and districts across the State, the Department identified a list of priorities to improve the CBT experience for students and schools. The Department is working with Questar to implement improvements for the 2016-17 CBT administration.

Current Status

In the 2016-17 school year, schools have the option to administer Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics operational tests and stand-alone field tests on paper or computer. To provide schools with the maximum flexibility, for this year's operational administration schools can select computer- or paper-based testing by grade and subject area. Additionally, the administration window for the operational CBT has been extended to six days to provide extra time for districts with a limited number of devices to be able to test multiple grade levels on computer.

To support schools in the transition to CBT, the Department continues to collaborate with the field through multiple communication networks, including the following:

- Weekly phone calls to stakeholder groups
- User groups/workgroups
- Webpages (www.p12.nysed.gov/technology/cbt and cbtsupport.nysed.gov)
- Presentations to stakeholder groups

The Department is also making available resources to assist districts and schools with implementing CBT, including the following:

- Question Sampler to preview the online testing environment
- Tools available online for schools/districts to verify their technological readiness
- Frequently Asked Questions on cbtsupport.nysed.gov
- Video tutorials on NYSED.gov website (www.p12.nysed.gov/technology/cbt)
- Technical assistance through email at CBTSupport@nysed.gov

The Department will conduct a series of regional CBT training sessions throughout the State in January 2017, and will host a series of webinar trainings to ensure that educators and administrators are fully prepared to administer and score the computer-based tests.

Attached is a planning, development, and training timeline of CBT events. (Attachment A)

<u>Related Regent's Item</u>
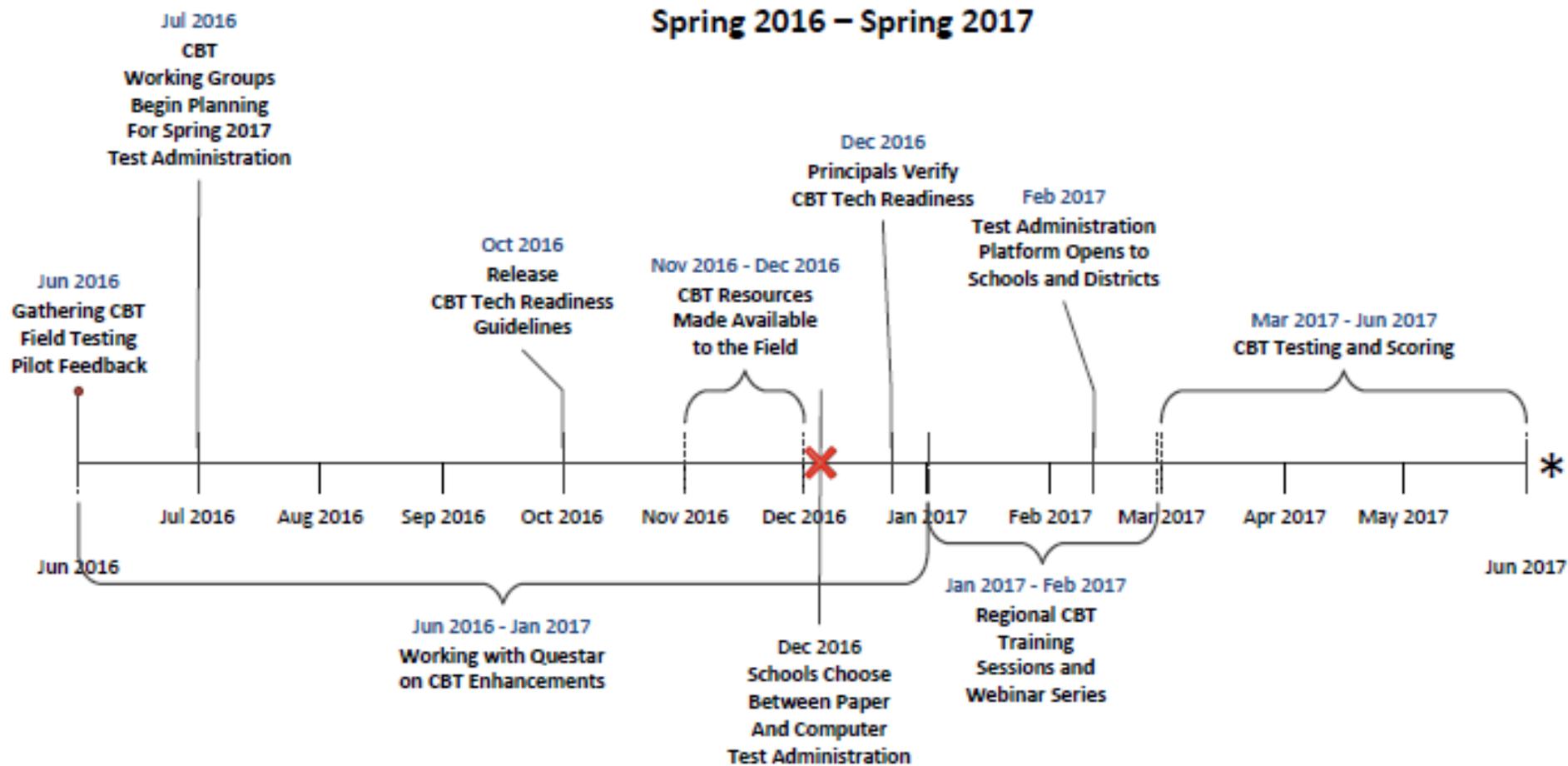
https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/March2012/312p12d2.pdf

http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/416p12d2.pdf

http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/516p12d4.pdf

Computer-Based Testing (CBT)
Planning, Development, and Training Timeline
Spring 2016 – Spring 2017

Jul 2016
CBT
Working Groups
Begin Planning
For Spring 2017
Test Administration

Dec 2016
Principals Verify
CBT Tech Readiness

Feb 2017
Test Administration
Platform Opens to
Schools and Districts

Oct 2016
Release
CBT Tech Readiness
Guidelines

Nov 2016 - Dec 2016
CBT Resources
Made Available
to the Field

Jun 2016
Gathering CBT
Field Testing
Pilot Feedback

Mar 2017 - Jun 2017
CBT Testing and Scoring

Jul 2016 Aug 2016 Sep 2016 Oct 2016 Nov 2016 Dec 2016 Jan 2017 Feb 2017 Mar 2017 Apr 2017 May 2017

Jun 2016

Jun 2017

Jun 2016 - Jan 2017
Working with Questar
on CBT Enhancements

Dec 2016
Schools Choose
Between Paper
And Computer
Test Administration

Jan 2017 - Feb 2017
Regional CBT
Training
Sessions and
Webinar Series

* Includes Continuous Communication & Outreach to the Field.