TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: Jhone M. Ebert

SUBJECT: English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments in Grades 3-8

DATE: June 9, 2017

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the New York State Education Department administer two-day sessions for each of the Grades 3-8 English language arts and mathematics assessments, until such time that a new design team makes recommendations for the new assessments reflecting the Next Generation Standards?

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the P-12 Education Committee for discussion at the June 2017 meeting of the Board of Regents.

Background Information

There has been considerable interest in reducing the length the Grades 3-8 English language arts and mathematics assessments. One way of achieving this would be to eliminate one session from each test. Since 2013, these assessments have been administered over three sessions. In 2016, the Department reduced the number of questions on each test while maintaining the three-session administration.

Department staff have been investigating the implications of reducing the number of test sessions in collaboration with our contractor and in consultation with the Department's Technical Advisory Committee.

Related Regent's Item

Summary of New York Common Core Task Force Final Report:
http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/Summary%20of%20New%20York%20Common%20Core%20Task%20Force%20Final%20Report_0.pdf

Recommendation

VOTED: That the New York State Education Department administer two-day sessions for each of the Grades 3-8 English language arts and mathematics assessments, until such time that a new design team makes recommendations for the new assessments reflecting the Next Generation Standards.

Timetable for Implementation

This decision will be implemented for the Spring 2018 Grades 3-8 English language arts and mathematics tests.