



**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*

**SUBJECT:** Monroe College: Master Plan Amendment to offer a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree program

**DATE:** July 12, 2018

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *Mary Ellen Elin*

**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)**

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for Monroe College to offer its first masters-level programs in the Education discipline area, a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) at the College's Bronx and New Rochelle campuses?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute and State regulation.

**Proposed Handling**

The question will come before the full Board at its July 2018 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

**Procedural History**

Monroe College has submitted a proposal to offer Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) programs in inclusive early childhood education birth-grade 2 and inclusive childhood education grades 1-6, leading to the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree and dual teacher certification. The College offers a Bachelor of Science degree in early childhood education leading to certification in the Education discipline area, but a master plan amendment is required because the proposed programs will be the College's first masters-level programs in the Education discipline area.

## **Background Information**

Monroe College seeks a master plan amendment to offer M.A.T. degree programs “Early Childhood Urban Ed/Special Ed (B-2)” and “Childhood Urban Ed/Special Ed (1-6)” leading to dual teacher certification in early childhood or childhood education and students with disabilities, at its Bronx and New Rochelle campuses. Monroe’s programs seek to recruit, prepare and graduate students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in the shortage area of special education and place the majority of graduates in high need New York City school districts and surrounding areas. Monroe currently has partnerships with over 15 schools in the Bronx and New Rochelle areas through its B.S. in Early Childhood program.

Each program’s curriculum includes coursework focused on preparing future educators for teaching in urban environments, such as reviewing challenges to implementing inclusion practices in urban schools and studying cognitive and social risk factors found in urban settings. Each program requires a minimum of 100 days of student teaching; 50 days in a regular education classroom and 50 days in special education, in grades B-2 or 1-6, depending on the certification sought. To insure students are prepared to be highly effective classroom teachers, Monroe will collect and evaluate student assessment data on the M.A.T. programs, in alignment with national standards (e.g., National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and InTASC (Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium.) Monroe’s School of Education participates in the College-wide assessment system and will collect and analyze course and program level data and adjust course content and delivery as needed. Accreditation for the M.A.T. programs will begin after three cohorts have graduated or within seven years of the date of program registration, whichever occurs earlier, pursuant to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and accreditation guidelines.

An academic review of the faculty, curriculum and other program elements (e.g., admissions criteria, resources) was completed by the Department and an external reviewer. The Department has determined that the proposed degree programs meet the standards for registration set forth in Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

In December 2017, following its standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of institutions of higher education in the Hudson Valley and New York City regions. Three institutions submitted positive remarks. An objection was received from The City University of New York (CUNY), which argued that the early childhood and childhood education areas were not shortage areas. Monroe responded that unique aspects of the program, such as its focus on targeting underrepresented students for admission and placing students in high need schools in New York City, met shortage areas. In addition, Monroe stated that teaching students with disabilities in the lower grades was listed on the NYC Department of Education website as a shortage area, where it planned to prepare candidates for eventual hiring.

Consistent with policy, the Department requested that Monroe College address the objections directly with the institution(s) that raised them and attempt to reach a resolution. As a result of Monroe College’s efforts, the department was notified by CUNY that it was withdrawing its objections to Monroe’s proposed M.A.T. programs.

### **Related Regents Items**

N/A

### **Recommendation**

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Monroe College to offer its first masters-level programs in the Education discipline area: “Early Childhood Urban Ed/Special Ed (B-2)” and “Childhood Urban Ed/Special Education (1-6)” leading to the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degrees and dual teacher certification, at its Bronx and New Rochelle campuses.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will register the programs.