

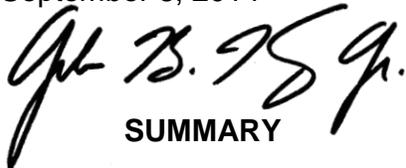


TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: John L. D'Agati 

SUBJECT: A presentation on the progress of the Test Security Unit and the status of test security matters in New York State

DATE: September 8, 2014

AUTHORIZATION(S): 
SUMMARY

Presentation

The presentation will be a review of the progress of the Test Security Unit (TSU), established following the March 19, 2012, "Review of the New York State Education Department's ('NYSED') Processes and Procedures for Handling and Responding to Reports of Alleged Irregularities in the Administration and Scoring of State Assessments," by Special Investigator Henry M. Greenberg. The presentation will include a brief review of the TSU's operations, the work that it has done during the two years since it became fully operational in August of 2012, and the current status of test security matters in New York State.

Background Information

On March 15, 2012, a Special Investigator appointed by Commissioner King issued a report of his independent review of the Department's processes and procedures for handling reports of alleged irregularities in the administration and scoring of state assessments. On March 19, 2012, the Special Investigator presented his findings to the Board of Regents, along with recommendations to enhance the security of state assessments. Building on test integrity measures adopted by the Board of Regents starting in the fall of 2011, the Board accepted the Special Investigator's findings and recommendations.

The principal recommendation from the Special Investigator was that the Department create a Test Security Unit, staffed with investigators and lawyers with law enforcement experience, dedicated to securing the integrity of state assessments through methods including the investigation and administrative prosecution of test fraud. On March 20, 2012, Commissioner King created the Test Security Unit (TSU) and appointed former Assistant United States Attorney Tina Sciocchetti as the Executive Director for Test Security and Educator Integrity.