



**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents  
**FROM:** Chancellor Betty A. Rosa  
**SUBJECT:** Appointment of Interim Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York  
**DATE:** August 29, 2019

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**



**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision**

Will the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Elizabeth R. Berlin to the position of Interim Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Since January 2013, Elizabeth R. Berlin has served as the State Education Department's Executive Deputy Commissioner, reporting directly to the Commissioner of Education. In that time, Ms. Berlin has successfully managed a broad array of critical Departmental functions and responsibilities, including those of the Department's Office of Management Services, Office of the Professions, Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services, Office of Cultural Education, Office of Performance and Improvement and Management Services and Office of the Chief Financial Officer. She also currently oversees the Department's Chief Privacy Officer, as well as the Offices of Communications, Human Resources, Education Finance, and Governmental Relations. Ms. Berlin also served as Acting Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York from January to July 2015. In addition to her deep experience as a leader and administrator with experience managing cross-systems initiatives at the Department, Ms. Berlin previously served as the Executive Deputy Commissioner at the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance between October 2007 and January 2013, where she oversaw the day-to-day operation for the State's supplemental nutrition assistance, homeless housing, public assistance, child support, home energy assistance, disability determination and refugee programs. She has also served as Commissioner of the Department of Social Services for the County of Albany and as Health and Human Services Coordinator for the Office of the

Albany County Executive, Michael Breslin. Her leadership experience in both state and county government will be an asset as she serves in this role.

**Proposed Handling**

The Board of Regents will review Ms. Berlin's credentials and experience.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED, that the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Elizabeth R. Berlin to the position of Interim Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York, effective September 10, 2019.

**Timetable for Implementation**

If the Board of Regents approves the recommendation, Ms. Berlin's appointment to this position will commence on September 10, 2019.