



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

TO: P-12 Education Committee
Cultural Education Committee

FROM: Charles Szuberla *Charles A. Szuberla Jr.*
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SUBJECT: New York State Blue Ribbon Panel for the Arts

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SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Following the decision to create 4+1 Assessment Pathways, the Board of Regents directed Department staff to convene a Blue Ribbon Panel for the Arts to examine how other states provide pathways to graduation in the arts, to determine the role of assessment in this pathway, and to evaluate assessments used to measure student achievement in the arts. Department staff will update the Board of Regents on the Blue Ribbon Panel and the review of assessments for an arts pathway.

Background Information

In May 2014, the Board discussed the use of rigorous career and technical education (CTE) assessments as a pathway to graduation. At that time, the Board also suggested that the Department establish a graduation pathway in the arts. In September 2014, the Board directed the Department to begin the process of establishing a Blue Ribbon Panel for the Arts and to begin identifying assessments that sufficiently measure student achievement in the arts.

With the 4+1 Pathway, approved by the Board in January 2015, students pursuing an arts pathway may now take an approved arts assessment in place of one of the Social Studies Regents exams required for graduation. However, at this time, New

York does not have arts assessments approved for the 4+1 assessment option for the arts pathway.

Similar to the approach used in the CTE pathway, the Department recommended the establishment of a Blue Ribbon Panel for the Arts to examine assessment options. The Panel will consist of educators and artists knowledgeable about arts education and arts assessment, including representatives from New York educator associations in the arts, postsecondary institutions, and arts industry partners. In addition, a group of nationally recognized experts in the field of arts assessment will provide technical expertise to the Blue Ribbon Panel.

The Blue Ribbon Panel for the Arts, co-chaired by Regent Tilles and Carolyn Adams, Founding Director of the New York State Summer School of Dance, will be charged with conducting a review of currently available arts assessments and evaluating the assessments against the criteria established by Commissioner's Regulation §100.2(mm), which requires that pathway assessments must be approved by the Commissioner pursuant to the following conditions and criteria:

- (1) pathway assessments shall measure student progress on the State learning standards for their respective content area(s) at a level of rigor equivalent to a Regents examination or approved alternative assessment;
- (2) pathway assessments shall be recognized or accepted by postsecondary institutions, experts in the field, and/or employers in areas related to the assessment;
- (3) pathway assessments shall be aligned with existing knowledge and practice in the field(s) related to their respective content area(s) and shall be reviewed at least every five years and updated as necessary;
- (4) pathway assessments shall be consistent with technical criteria for validity, reliability, and fairness in testing;
- (5) pathway assessments shall be developed by an entity other than a local school or school district;
- (6) pathway assessments shall be available for use by any school or school district in New York State; and
- (7) pathway assessments shall be administered under secure conditions approved by the commissioner.

The Department collected nominations from the field for the Blue Ribbon Panel for the Arts. The Panel, attached to this item, includes 52 representatives from the arts, higher education and P-12 education who have agreed to serve. The co-chairs will be supported by 18 members from the Panel who will serve on an Executive Committee.

Next Steps

The co-chairs will convene the Executive Committee over the spring and summer. We anticipate that the full Panel will meet this fall to consider and submit recommendations to the Commissioner for approved arts assessments.

**New York State Education Department
Blue Ribbon Panel for the Arts**

Name	Organization	Focus	Location
Co-Chairs			
Regent Roger Tilles	New York Board of Regents		
Carolyn Adams	NYS Summer School of the Arts, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre		
Executive Committee			
Michele Agosto	Buffalo Public Schools	Photography	Western NY
Grace Barrett	Commack CSD	Visual Arts	Long Island
Judith Burton	Teachers College Columbia University	Drawing	Yonkers
Jennifer Childress	The College of Saint Rose	Visual Arts	Capital Region
Katy Colletti	Ulster County BOCES	Arts Education	Hudson Valley
Allyson Green	New York University	Performing and Visual Arts	New York City
Marc Greene	Ithaca College	Music	Central New York
Paul King	NYCDOE	Theatre and Opera	New York City
Steven Lam	SUNY Purchase	Performance Art	Hudson Valley
Francisco Núñez	Young People's Chorus of New York City	Music	New York City
Lori Orestano-James	Canajoharie Middle School	Music	Central New York
Alberto Rey	SUNY Fredonia	Drawing and Painting	Western NY
Jamal Rossi	University of Rochester	Music (Saxophone)	Rochester
Deirdre Scott	Bronx Council on the Arts	Cultural	Bronx
Michael Sitton	SUNY Potsdam	Music (Piano)	North Country
Gully Stanford	Retired, Director of Public Affairs of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts	Performing Arts	Hudson Valley
Gregory Taylor	SUNY Purchase	Cinema and Video	Hudson Valley
David Weiss	Long Beach Public Schools	Arts Administration	Long Island
Panelists			
Thomas Albrecht	SUNY New Paltz	Visual Arts	Hudson Valley
Stan Altman	CUNY/Baruch College	Arts Administration	New York City
Linda Ames Keys	Vital Theatre Company	Theatre	New York City
Josephine Anstey	University of Buffalo	Media Arts	Western NY
Joanne Arbuckle	Fashion Institute of Technology	Fashion	New York City
Graham Ashton	SUNY Purchase	Music	Hudson Valley
Ralph Blasting	SUNY Fredonia	Visual and Performing Arts	Western NY
Stephen Butler	CNY Arts	Theatre	Central New

			York
Laura Cannamela	Ichabod Crane CSD	Drawing/Sculpture	Capital Region
Karen Crowley	Oyster Bay High School	Visual Arts	Long Island
Kristie Fuller	Indian River CSD	Theater	North Country
F. Lane Harwell	DANCE/NYC	Dance	New York City
Jerry James	Center for Arts Education	Painting	New York City
Susan Kafer	Ossining High School	Music (Piano)	Hudson Valley
Paul Kassel	SUNY New Paltz	Theatre	Hudson Valley
Jennifer Katona	The City College of New York, CUNY	Theatre	New York City
Thomas Knab	Williamsville CSD	Elementary Arts	Western NY
Susan Koff	Steinhart School of Culture, Education and Human Development at NYU	Dance	New York City
Dale Lewis	Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts	Arts Education and Administration	Long Island
Michael Parks	Buffalo State College	Arts Education	Western NY
Ravi Rajan	SUNY Purchase	Music/Video	Hudson Valley
Lisa Robb	New York State Council on the Arts	Photography	New York City
Michael Royce	New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA)	Arts Administration	New York City
Michael Salzman	Syosset CSD	Music	Long Island
Marc Scorca	OPERA America	Opera	New York City
Elise Sobol	New York University	Music	Long Island
Patricia Sullivan-Kriss	Hauppauge UFSD	Administration	Long Island
Philip Michael Taylor	New York University	Theatre	New York City
Paul Tooker	Bedford CSD	Music	Lower Hudson
Helen Wheelock	New York City Wolf Trap After School Program	Theatre	New York City
Aileen Wilson	Pratt Institute	Art and Design	Brooklyn
Robert Wood	Wappingers CSD	Fine Art	Hudson Valley