



TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Betty A. Rosa

SUBJECT: Appointment of Erica Meaker to Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Federal Grants

DATE: December 31, 2025

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

Issue for Decision

Will the Board of Regents approve my appointment of Erica Meaker to Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Federal Grants?

Reason(s) for Consideration

The Department recently received approval from Civil Service to create a standalone P-20 Federal Grants Office. This office will streamline federal program implementation and reduce duplicate burdens on Local Educational Agencies (LEAs).

The office will be led by a new Assistant Commissioner and will manage \$3 billion in federal grants starting with IDEA and ESSA. This consolidation builds consistent systems and oversight, aligns fiscal and programmatic practices, and expands IDEA monitoring using ESSA best practices. The goal is to boost capacity, ensure uniformity, and strengthen federal program management.

Erica Meaker is an accomplished educational leader with over 17 years of experience at the New York State Education Department (NYSED). Currently serving as Education Program Manager 2, she directs statewide administration of more than \$1.4 billion in federal ESSA funding and \$15 billion in federal COVID-response funds, overseeing programs that support students from prekindergarten through grade 12.

Erica provides strategic leadership to LEAs, manages statewide funding application processes, and ensures compliance with federal and state regulations. She leads monitoring and evaluation systems, develops technical assistance plans, and supervises a team of 35 staff members. Previously, Erica held roles as Supervisor of Education Programs, Associate in Education Improvement Services, and Assistant in Education Improvement Services, where she managed federal ESSA-funded programs, school improvement initiatives, charter school grants, and federal reporting.

Elevating Erica to the Assistant Commissioner of the Federal Grants Office allows the department to have a seasoned professional at the helm of this consolidated office and would represent a fourth promotion during her service at NYSED.

Her early career includes classroom teaching in elementary and secondary education. Erica holds a Master of Science in Education (Reading) and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a Mathematics concentration from The College of Saint Rose. She is certified in Reading (K–12) and Elementary Education (PreK–6) and has completed leadership training through the NYS Leadership Institute and Governor's Leadership Development Program. Skilled in Microsoft Office and data systems, Erica excels in program management, compliance, and capacity building.

Proposed Handling

This appointment will come before the Full Board of Regents for action at its January 2026 meeting.

Recommendation

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Erica Meaker to Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Federal Grants.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the recommendation, the appointment will be effective January 13, 2026.