



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

**FROM:** MaryEllen Elia

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Student Support Services

**DATE:** February 13, 2018

**AUTHORIZATIONS:** 

**Issue for Decision**

Will the Board of Regents approve my appointment of Kathleen DeCataldo, Esq. to the position of Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Student Support Services?

**Reason for Consideration**

Kathleen will bring to the Assistant Commissioner position extensive knowledge and experience in working with populations of at-risk youth. Kathleen started her career as an attorney and worked for the NYS Office of Children and Family Services as the Director of Legislation and Special Projects. Kathleen was instrumental in reforming laws related to child welfare and juvenile justice systems. For the past 11 years, as the Executive Director of the New York State Commission on Justice for Children, Kathleen has advocated for reforms to improve the child welfare, juvenile justice and education systems for at-risk children. As a member of the New York City Mayor's Leadership Team on School Climate and Discipline, Kathleen was also the Co-Chair of the School Safety Working Group. She has worked on transformation of school discipline policies: in 2015 convened the restorative practices conference held in New York City and also coordinated regional conferences on school climate and discipline. Kathleen's extensive experience with at-risk populations and systems reform will make her a great asset as she serves in this role.

**Proposed Handling**

The Board of Regents reviewed Ms. DeCataldo's credentials and experience in Executive Session on January 23, 2018.

**Recommendation**

I recommend that you take the following action:

VOTED, that the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Kathleen DeCataldo, Esq. to the position of Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Student Support Services.