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

TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents Acting in their Capacity as Trustees of The University of the State of New York

FROM: Sharon Cates-Williams, Fiscal Agent *Sharon Cates-Williams*

SUBJECT: Acceptance of a $611,700 Grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

DATE: February 29, 2024

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents approve a $611,700 grant to The University of the State of New York Regents Research Fund from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of policy.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Full Board for action at its March 2024 meeting.

Procedural History

Not applicable.

Background Information

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded a $611,700 grant to The University of the State of New York Regents Research Fund to strengthen the teaching of elementary mathematics and launch a new teacher recruitment system in New York State. The grant would support work in three areas:

- **Set of Briefs.** One or more consultants would be hired to develop a comprehensive set of briefs and presentations, including webinars, on effective, evidence-based practices for teaching math in the elementary grades.

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The briefs would provide guidance for the P-12 and higher education communities about effectively teaching elementary math.

- **Model Partnership.** Through a competitive procurement process, a New York State institution of higher education (IHE) would receive funding to lead a model partnership between the IHE and a school district and/or BOCES that supports an elementary school or network of schools in teaching effective, evidence-based practices in math.

  The IHE and school district/BOCES would collaboratively identify and review high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) for teaching math in the elementary grades that reflect the effective, evidence-based practices identified in the briefs described above. The IHE would also conduct professional development for the elementary teachers in the school(s) – as well as work with university supervisors, cooperating teachers, and candidates (triads) in clinical experiences (e.g., student teaching, residency) – on implementing effective, evidence-based practices in teaching math and HQIM with fidelity and rigor. Additionally, elementary teachers who engage in professional development; understand the effective, evidence-based practices for teaching math; and embrace implementing HQIM in their classrooms would be selected and supported to provide professional development for teachers and administrators in other schools, districts, and/or BOCES about their experiences with HQIM in their model school/network, serving as teacher "ambassadors."

- **New Teacher Recruitment System**. Some of the funds would be used to help pay for some of the first-year costs for Teach.org to develop and deploy a state-customized, comprehensive recruitment system that is designed to increase the quantity and diversity of teachers in New York State. Their system, which is grounded in research, includes: a statewide marketing campaign to inspire New Yorkers to consider teaching and generate leads; programming, experiences, and inspirational content to cultivate leads; and one-on-one advising, guides to educator preparation programs and licensure, financial assistance, certification exam preparation, and other resources to support leads in overcoming common barriers to becoming a teacher.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

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

VOTED: That the $611,700 grant to The University of the State of New York Regents Research Fund from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation be approved.

Timetable for Implementation

Not applicable.