



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

TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Betty A. Rosa

SUBJECT: Appointment of Michael Mastroianni to Deputy
Commissioner of Cultural Education

DATE: July 14, 2025

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Will the Board of Regents approve my appointment of Michael Mastroianni to Deputy Commissioner of Cultural Education?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Dr. Michael P. Mastroianni is a proven leader in public education policy and cultural programming, with a distinguished record of cross-sector leadership, strategic execution, and research-driven impact. He holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction from the University at Albany, an M.S. in Physics from the University of Connecticut, and a B.S. in Physics from Union College.

He currently serves as Senior Advisor to the Commissioner and Interim Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education at the New York State Education Department. In this capacity, he has provided steady leadership for the State Museum, Library, and Archives—reviving and leading strategic initiatives, guiding large-scale projects, and identifying opportunities to restructure systems and find operational efficiencies. His work has centered on transforming these institutions into sustainable hubs for community engagement, public interest, and academic research, while scaling impactful efforts, strengthening cross-agency collaboration, and deepening participation through inclusive, capacity-building programming.

A recent highlight of his portfolio is his leadership of the 2024 New York City Mayoral Control Report, a comprehensive, research-based review of school governance in New York City. Dr. Mastroianni oversaw the full project lifecycle—from design and stakeholder engagement through public hearings and final report delivery—

collaborating with legal scholars and policy experts to produce actionable recommendations for the future of the city's education system.

Previously, he served in the Executive Chamber under two governors as Assistant Secretary for Education and later as Acting Deputy Secretary for Education, helping to guide statewide education policy across all levels—from Pre-K to postsecondary. His work included oversight of 6,500 public schools, the SUNY and CUNY systems, and policy development in key areas such as pandemic response, student mental health, and workforce development. In an earlier role with the NYS Division of Budget, he led the creation of the School Funding Transparency Initiative and was recognized as a co-honoree of the John E. Burton Service Award from the National Association of State Budget Officers.

Dr. Mastroianni's academic contributions span STEM education, curriculum design, and gender equity in science instruction. He is a contributing author to the book *Writing Instruction that Works: Proven Methods for Middle and High School Classrooms* (Teachers College Press), where his chapter explores best practices for integrating written composition in mathematics education. He has also published in peer-reviewed journals, served as an assistant editor, and presented at national conferences. Across all roles, his work reflects a deep commitment to system improvement, equitable access, and evidence-based decision-making.

Proposed Handling

This appointment will come before the Full Board of Regents for action at its July 2025 meeting.

Recommendation

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Michael Mastroianni to Deputy Commissioner of Cultural Education.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the recommendation, the appointment will be effective July 15, 2025.