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

TO: P-12 Education Committee
College and Career Readiness Working Group

FROM: John B. King, Jr.

SUBJECT: Options for Students to meet New York State High School Assessment Requirements

DATE: March 29, 2011

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Do the Regents wish to offer students various options among Regents Examinations and Department-approved alternative examinations required to earn a high school diploma?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of Policy.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the P-12 Education Committee and the College and Career Readiness Working Group for discussion at the April 2011 meeting.

Background Information

During the March College and Career Readiness Working Group meeting, the Board of Regents discussed potential revisions of high school graduation requirements. This discussion included preliminary results from statewide forums and a college- and career-readiness survey. A number of options for earning units of credit and satisfying examination requirements for a high school diploma were included in the discussion. The Board of Regents requested that further discussion take place with examples surrounding

options for student choice in one or more Regents examinations required for earning a high school diploma. Options presented are as follows:

- ***Option 1: ELA+ 1 Mathematics + 1 Science + 2 other[#]***
- ***Option 2: ELA + 1 Mathematics + 1 Social Studies +1 Science + 1 other[#]***
- Option 3: ELA + 1 Mathematics + 2 Science + 1 other[#]
- Option 4: ELA + 1 Mathematics + 2 Social Studies + 1 other[#]
- Option 5: ELA + 2 Mathematics + 2 other[#]
- Option 6: ELA +1 Mathematics + 3 other[#]

[#] including Regents Examinations, Department-Approved Alternative Examinations, or other Department- Approved Assessments such as CTE exams

Policy Directions for Consideration

Currently, Commissioner's regulation §100.5(a)(5) requires that students pass five Regents examinations or Department-approved alternative examinations to satisfy the examination requirements for a Regents diploma[1] as follows: one in English Language Arts; one in mathematics; two in social studies; and one in science.

Recommendation for Discussion

Based on feedback received from the statewide survey, from attendees at the Regents Regional forums, and on the desire to offer students a greater degree of individualized learning, it is recommended that the Board approve option 1 ***or*** option 2 above for students who first enter grade nine in September 2012 and thereafter and direct staff to develop amendments to the Commissioner's regulations to implement such policy.

Specifically, option 1 would require that, in order to demonstrate attainment of the NYS learning standards, all students[2] shall be required to pass the following examinations: the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English; one Regents Examination in mathematics; one Regents Examination in science[3]; and two additional examinations (which may include Regents Examinations, approved Career and Technical Education assessments, and/or Department-approved alternative examinations (see

[1] To earn a local diploma (being phased out, but still available to general education students who entered grade nine in 2005, 2006 and 2007 and to certain students with disabilities), general education students are required to earn 22 units of credit and pass the five required Regents exams. Passing scores on the Regents exams range from 55 to 65 or above, with the exact number of exams on which students must earn a 65 or above depending on the year in which they entered grade 9 (see 8 NYCRR §100.5[b]). Students with disabilities may earn a local diploma through the current "Safety Net" provisions of Commissioner's regulations (see 8 NYCRR §100.5[b]).

[2] The Department may consider possible safety net options for students with disabilities once a determination is made as to the requirements for a Regents diploma. Additional safety net options for students with disabilities related to Regents examinations might include allowing students with disabilities to obtain a local diploma based on a composite Regents test score as long as the student passes the math and English Regents examinations with a designated score.

[3] NCLB requires testing in Mathematics, English Language Arts and Science at least once in high school.

appendix A)). Option 2 would require that students pass the following examinations: the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English; one Regents Examination in mathematics; one Regents Examination in science; one Regents Examination in social studies, and one additional examination as noted above. Under either option, students must still earn the required units of credit under Commissioner's regulation §100.5(a)(3), which includes 4 units of credit in social studies.

Appendix A

Regents Examinations currently available from the Department

- Mathematics:
  Integrated Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2/Trigonometry[4]
- English Language Arts:
  Regents Comprehensive Examination in English
- Social Studies:
  Global History & Geography and U.S. History and Government[5]
- Science:
  Living Environment, Earth Science, Chemistry, and Physics
- Comprehensive examinations in the languages:
  Spanish, French, and Italian
  Locally created assessments in Languages Other Than English

Career/Technical Education (CTE) Assessments

Technical assessments measure the knowledge and skills of an entry-level worker or an individual who has completed course work in a secondary or post-secondary career and technical program. These assessments allow students to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and talents within their chosen career path. Technical assessments are developed using business and industry standards and most include both multiple choice and performance components.[6]

Existing policy on technical assessment use in CTE approved programs:

- Only available to students enrolled in a CTE approved program;
- The selected technical assessment must be nationally-recognized and based on industry standards;
- The school district or BOCES selects an appropriate industry standard technical assessment to measure student proficiency in the technical field for the program.
- The school district or BOCES may select a New York State licensing examination as the technical assessment;

[4] The Regents will discuss the possibility of requiring students to pass the Geometry or Algebra2/Trigonometry exam for graduation.
[5] The Regents will discuss dividing the current Global History and Geography course into two separate courses with a Regents Exam for each.
[6] The Regents will discuss supplementing current requirements for CTE assessments (e.g., other states use the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate).

- Consists of three parts: written, student demonstration (performance), and student project (students must pass all three components);

- The school district or BOCES determines the scheduling and administration of technical assessments. It is recommended but not required that the technical assessment be administered at the conclusion of the program. Parts may be administered throughout a student's learning experience;

- The school district or BOCES determines the number of times a student may take a particular technical assessment;

- The school district or BOCES must comply with existing laws and regulations related to administration of technical assessments to students with disabling conditions and provide appropriate testing modifications. Restrictions on student eligibility for testing are the responsibility of the test producer.

Current Department-Approved Alternative Examinations

Section 100.2(f) of the Commissioner's regulations provides for the use of Department-approved alternative assessments:

- **Use of alternative assessments**

With the approval of the commissioner, assessments which measure an equivalent level of knowledge and skill may be substituted for the assessments specified in Part 100. Alternative assessments for the Regents examinations for global history and geography, United States history and government, comprehensive English, mathematics and the sciences shall meet the following conditions and criteria:

  - measure the State learning standards for the respective content area;

  - be at least as rigorous as the corresponding required State assessment;

  - be consistent with technical criteria for validity, reliability, and freedom from bias;

  - developed by an entity other than a local school or school district;

  - available for use by any school or school district in New York State; and

  - administered under secure conditions approved by the commissioner.

Department-Approved Alternative Examinations Acceptable for Meeting Requirements for a Regents Diploma

English	***Minimum Score***
Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) English Examination	E
Advanced Placement Language and Composition Examination	3
Advanced Placement Literature and Composition Examination	3
International Baccalaureate English A1 Standard Level Examination	4
International Baccalaureate English A1 Higher Level Examination	3
Global History and Geography	
Advanced Placement World History	3
United States History and Government	
Advanced Placement United States History	3
SAT II United States History [7]	560
Languages Other Than English	
SAT II French Listening ***and*** French Reading	500/500
SAT II German Listening ***and*** German Reading	470/470
SAT II Modern Hebrew	490
SAT II Italian	450
SAT II Latin	470
SAT II Spanish Listening ***and*** Spanish Reading	460/460
Integrated Algebra	
Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Mathematics Examination	E
Advanced Placement Calculus AB Examination	3
Advanced Placement Calculus BC Examination	3
International Baccalaureate Mathematics Studies Standard Level Examination	4
International Baccalaureate Mathematics Methods Standard Level Examination	4
International Baccalaureate Mathematics Higher Level Examination	3
International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)	A
SAT II Mathematics Level IC	470
SAT II Mathematics Level IIC	510
Geometry and Algebra 2/Trigonometry	
Advanced Placement Calculus AB Examination	3
Advanced Placement Calculus BC Examination	3
SAT II Mathematics Level IIC	550

[7] In addition to achieving the established score, students must complete a multi-source, in-depth research project that demonstrates the ability to use primary and secondary sources

Science[8]	
Advanced Placement Biology	3
SAT II Biology	520
SAT II Chemistry	540
SAT II Physics	530

[8] In addition to achieving the established score, students must complete 1,200 minutes of hands-on laboratory work with satisfactory laboratory reports.