



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

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

July 27, 2010

Arne Duncan
Secretary
U.S. Education Department
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

On Monday July 19, 2010, the New York State Board of Regents ("Board") adopted the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Math. The following documents are evidence:

Attachment A: Recommendation to the Board to adopt the Common Core from Sr. Deputy John B. King and Commissioner David M. Steiner

Attachment B: Certification of the Board's adoption of the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Math prepared by Tony Lofrumento, Secretary to the Board

Attachment C: Official minutes of the July 19, 2010 Board meeting related to the adoption of the Common Core

As stated in Section B(1) of our application, the Board has broad authority over the State's entire education system, including student learning standards. Under State Education Law §211, the Board of Regents is required to periodically review and evaluate the existing New York State Learning Standards to ensure that they provide an adequate opportunity for students to acquire the skills and knowledge needed for success in employment, postsecondary education, and citizenship.

New York State has an ambitious plan for implementing the Common Core now that they have been adopted. By December 2010, we will adopt an additional 15% of standards and have a complete new set of standards, including the 85% Common Core. More information about our implementation plan is in Section B(3) of our application.

Please consider this submission as an amendment to Section B(1) of our application. For more information on our implementation plans, please refer to our application.

Sincerely,

David M. Steiner
Commissioner



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

TO: P-12 Education Committee/Standards Work Group
FROM: John B. King, Jr.
SUBJECT: New York Common Core State Standards Adoption
DATE: July 12, 2010
AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Will the New York State Board of Regents adopt the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects and the CCSS for Mathematics as new learning standards for New York State, with the understanding that our state may add additional K-12 expectations (up to 15%, as necessary) and adopt aligned Pre-Kindergarten standards?

Proposed Handling

The question will come before a joint meeting of the Regents P-12 Education Committee and the Regents Standards Work Group for action at its July 2010 meeting.

Procedural History and Background Information

Since April 2009, New York State, along with 47 other states, two territories, and the District of Columbia, has been involved in the development of Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics, an initiative coordinated by the National Governors Association for Best Practices (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The New York State Education Department has provided written and verbal input throughout the development process and gathered feedback from the public through its online Common Core State Standards Initiative website.

During the June meeting of the Board of Regents, Commissioner David Steiner and Senior Deputy Commissioner John King presented a comprehensive overview of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects and CCSS for Mathematics. The Board discussed these standards and commented on matters related to New

York's adoption of a new set of standards in ELA and Mathematics and the development of assessments that will measure them.

In order to meet the August 2, 2010 Race to the Top Round Two application deadline for states to adopt the CCSS, New York State must decide whether to adopt the final set of CCSS for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects and CCSS for Mathematics. Based on public feedback and Board discussion, we recommend that the Regents adopt the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects and CCSS for Mathematics, with the understanding that our state may add additional achievement expectations (up to 15% of the total, as necessary) to ensure New York State students will have standards that will prepare them for college, careers, and productive citizenry. As of early July 2010, 20 states have formally adopted the Common Core State Standards according to the CCSSO.

Over the summer, two groups of stakeholders (including teachers, administrators, college faculty members and administrators, members of the Standards Review Initiative, and cognitive psychologists) will analyze the Common Core State Standards and develop recommendations for additional material in English Language Arts and Mathematics (up to 15%, as necessary). The two committees, including leaders from the Standards Review Initiative, will meet in Albany from July 20th-23rd to develop a proposed draft of K-12 NYS Learning Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics that includes the Common Core State Standards (85%) and additional recommended NYS Standards (up to 15%). To support the Board of Regents' plan to include early education expectations, the English Language Arts and Mathematics committees will also outline prekindergarten standards (representing the year prior to kindergarten), since they are not included in the K-12 Common Core State Standards.

These recommendations will be shared with the Board of Regents in the fall and then shared with the public for feedback. By January 2011, the Board of Regents will review and act on a new set of P-12 NYS Learning Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics that includes the Common Core State Standards (85%) and additional recommended NYS Standards as needed.

As expressed during the June presentation, both sets of Common Core State Standards:

- align well with our current New York State Learning Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics;
- include some new or updated areas of knowledge and skills; and
- provide opportunities for adding some additional content to ensure New York has the best set of learning standards for our students.

The development of the Common Core State Standards went through a process that included feedback from content experts, teachers, researchers, and the general public. Dr. Dorothy Strickland (Rutgers University-Retired), Dr. Michael Kamil (Stanford University), and Dr. Catherine Snow (Harvard University), three researchers who contributed to the Regents Standards Review Initiative, were also involved in the

development of the Common Core State Standards, either as part of the ELA Work Team or the Validation Committee.

Overall, both the CCSS for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects and CCSS for Mathematics compare well to our current NYS ELA and Mathematics Standards. A summary of each set of standards and general comments about how the CCSS compare to our current set of ELA and Mathematics Standards was provided in a June 8th, 2010 Regents discussion item.

Next Steps

Staff recommends the Board of Regents adopt the CCSS for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects and the CCSS for Mathematics as new learning standards for New York State, with the understanding that our state may add additional K-12 expectations (up to 15%, as necessary). Recommendations for additional NYS standards (up to 15%) and aligned Pre-Kindergarten standards will be brought to the Regents in the fall for discussion and then shared with the public for comment. After the Board of Regents adopts the final set of ELA and Mathematics P-12 Learning Standards, the Department will develop additional curriculum and instruction resources for teachers and students, including English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities. The new P-12 combined standards will be introduced in the spring of 2011 and will be implemented in New York State schools beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT/THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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To Whom It May Concern:

On Monday, July 19, 2010, the Board of Regents unanimously approved the recommendations of the P-12 Education Committee and Standards Work Group, including the following action:

New York Common Core Standards

That the Board of Regents hereby adopt the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English language arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects and the CCSS for Mathematics as new learning standards for New York State, with the understanding that our state may add additional K-12 expectations (up to 15 percent, as necessary) and adopt aligned Pre-Kindergarten standards.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of The University and of the State Education Department, at the city of Albany, New York, this the 22nd day of July, 2010.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony Lofrumento".

Anthony Lofrumento

Report of the
JOINT MEETING OF THE REGENTS P-12 EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND
THE REGENTS STANDARDS WORK GROUP

to
The Board of Regents
July 19, 2010

Your P-12 Education Committee and Standards Work Group held a joint meeting on July 19, 2010. All Committee and Work Group members were present.

ACTION ITEMS

New York Common Core State Standards

Your Committee and Work Group recommend that the Board of Regents adopt the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English language arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects and the CCSS for Mathematics as new learning standards for New York State, with the understanding that our state may add additional K-12 expectations (up to 15 percent, as necessary) and adopt aligned Pre-Kindergarten standards.

MOTION FOR ACTION BY FULL BOARD

Madam Chancellor and Colleagues: Your P-12 Education Committee and Standards Work Group recommends, and we move, that the Board of Regents act affirmatively upon each recommendation in the written report of the Committee's deliberations at its meeting on July 19, 2010, copies of which have been distributed to each Regent.

That concludes our report.

Anthony Bottar
Chair, P-12 Education Committee

James C. Dawson
Chair, Standards Work Group