



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

TO: District Superintendents, Superintendents of Public and Nonpublic Schools,
and Principals of Public Charter, and Nonpublic Schools
FROM: John B. King, Jr. *John B. King, Jr.*
SUBJECT: Changes in Regents Exams for 2011
DATE: August 2, 2010

As you are aware, at the June 2010 Board of Regents meeting, the Board discussed the projected deficit of approximately \$11.5 million in available funding for 2010-11 for P-12 programs, including the assessment program. At that time, I noted that in 2011-12 the deficit would likely increase to approximately \$21 million. As a result, the Commissioner and I proposed a series of cuts including the elimination of the administration of the January 2011 Regents Exams. We received notice yesterday that our request for additional funding from the legislature and executive has been partially approved; this will **allow** the following:

- Administration of January 2011 Regents Exams
- Translation of exams into Chinese, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian and Spanish
- Administration of the June 2011 Foreign Language Regents Exam in Italian

While this is good news, **it is important to keep in mind that this applies to the 2011 administration of Regents Exams only.** That is, unless alternative funding sources can be identified in the very near future, the Regents will need to consider further deficit reduction actions in the fall. As such, districts are strongly advised to develop alternative plans that anticipate the elimination of the January 2012 Regents Exams, translations, and the administration of the June 2012 Italian Regents Exam.

All other deficit-reducing actions approved by the Regents in June will, unfortunately, have to continue including:

- Discontinuation of paper-based scoring materials for Regents Exams. All scoring materials and answer keys will be posted to the Department's website and schools will be responsible for downloading prior to scoring
- Elimination of Component Retesting in Math & ELA
- Elimination of Grades 5 and 8 Social Studies Exams
- Elimination of Grade 8 Second Language Proficiency Exams
- Elimination of August Administration of Algebra 2/Trigonometry and Chemistry Exams
- Elimination of HS Foreign Language Regents exams except for Spanish, French and Italian

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work together on behalf of our students.

cc: David Abrams, Ken Slentz