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Office of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness
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MEMORANDUM

To: **Superintendent Laurence Spring, SCHENECTADY CITY SD**
From: **Dr. Julia Rafal-Baer, Assistant Commissioner**
Date: **06/15/2014**
Re: **Assessment Administration in Conjunction with Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPRs)**

The Department recognizes that during the first year of full implementation of Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR), a variety of pressures at the state and local level may have resulted in students in some districts and BOCES being tested more than needed or in rote standardized test preparation that crowds out quality instruction. Numerous stakeholders, including – and most importantly – families and students, have raised concerns as a result of these local decisions.

The State has not created any additional tests as part of the implementation of the Common Core. All required state tests other than two high school social studies Regents exams – including all grades 3-8 assessments and high school exams in English, math, and science – are required by federal law. On February 11, 2014, the Board of Regents adopted emergency regulations to address the concerns raised by stakeholders and to adjust and improve the implementation of the Common Core standards and teacher/principal evaluation. The approved regulatory amendments to the APPR system are intended to help districts and BOCES reduce local testing and ensure that the amount of testing is the minimum necessary to inform effective decision-making. At its March 2014 meeting, the Board of Regents made a series of technical amendments to the regulations to clarify the requirements for districts and BOCES that opt to use an assessment that is not a traditional standardized assessment for grades K-2 for APPR purposes. The Department has developed a webpage with multiple resources in order to help districts and BOCES successfully navigate the regulatory amendments and efficiently access relevant material: http://www.engageny.org/resource/guidance-on-the-approved-regulatory-amendments-to-appr-to-help-reduce-local-testing.

Based on the concerns conveyed to the Commissioner surrounding the use of assessments, and in accordance with Section 1 of Subpart F of Chapter 56 of the laws of 2014, the Commissioner has directed the Office of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness to review your APPR plan to identify opportunities for you to act locally to ensure that your district is using the minimum assessments necessary to inform effective decision making, consistent with your instructional vision. As you are now in the second full year of APPR implementation, the Department encourages you to use this letter to help review your currently approved APPR plan to identify modifications that would be approvable by the Department and result in less testing for your students. As you know, the Department has consistently communicated that **the amount of testing should be the minimum necessary** to inform effective decision-making at the classroom, school, and district/BOCES level.

The Department has developed guidance and technical support materials regarding the role of assessments within the APPR system. These materials include methods to eliminate, where consistent with the district's or BOCES' instructional vision, the use of pre-tests and other locally-adopted standardized tests. In lieu of pre-tests, districts and BOCES can use past performance trends, historical data and/or prior-year test results to establish targets for determining student learning growth. Additionally, locally-adopted standardized tests can be replaced with state assessments, school-wide growth measures, or performance-based assessments. Education Law §3012-c provides you with design flexibility. The Department encourages you and your local bargaining units to use the available resources to ensure that thoughtful conversation occurs, and strategic decisions are made, regarding the use of student assessments. *Teaching, not testing, is the core of our work*. There are an assortment of ways in which a district or BOCES can design a meaningful and authentic assessment program that provides information to drive instructional decisions, ultimately leading to an increase in students' knowledge and skills. By taking the time to re-review your local assessment practices, you can engage in collaborative conversations with your local stakeholders about ways in which you might choose to use data and/or evidence more effectively and efficiently to ensure that all local tests help inform instruction and improve student learning, rather than needlessly add to the number of assessments administered within your district.

To help further facilitate these conversations on the local level, the Office of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness has reviewed your APPR plan and determined that there are a number of ways in which, through a material change request, you could make thoughtful adjustments consistent with your district's instructional vision to your currently approved APPR plan to reduce and/or refine assessments used, subject to collective bargaining decisions[1].

Teaching, not testing, is the core of the Regents Reform Agenda.

[1] Please note: material changes for the 2014-15 school year must be submitted by March 1, 2015 (see: APPR Guidance: C8 http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/appr-field-guidance.pdf. For districts or BOCES that want to make a material change to their APPR plan solely to eliminate unnecessary student assessments, the Department provides an expedited review process using the Expedited Material Change Form (https://www.engageny.org/file/96856/download/expedited-mc-fill-in-form-distribute.pdf). Please also see: https://www.engageny.org/file/96851/download/expedited-mc-cover-letter-2-24-14.pdf for further information).

Consideration 1: Use of Pre-Assessments

The use of pre-assessments in a grade or subject is a local decision to be made consistent with your district's instructional vision.

The APPR team has found the following examples of where your district has collectively bargained the use of a pre-assessment as a baseline measurement in Task 2, the State Growth or Other Comparable Measures subcomponent and/or in Task 3, the Locally-selected Measures subcomponent (please note that the information below reflects information taken directly from your district's currently approved APPR plan):

Task 2 Course Name
K ELA
1 ELA
2 ELA
3 ELA
K Math
1 Math
2 Math
3 Math
7 SCI
8 SCI
7 SS
8 SS
Global 1
Global 2
American History
Living Environment
Earth Science
Chemistry
Physics
Algebra 1
Geometry
Algebra 2
9 English
10 English
11 English
Grades 9-12 - French
Grades 9-12 - Chinese
Grades 9-12 - Arabic
Government AP
English Language Learners - Primary
Grades K-8 - Arabic
Grades 9-12 - Spanish
Grades K-8 - Chinese
Grades K-8 - Spanish

First Aid/Sports Medicine
Environmental Science
Grades K-8 - French
High School Business Law
12th grade English
20th Century Topics
Algebra 1B/Geometry
Basic Instrumental Music
Basic Skills - High School
College Bound Math
Basic Skills - Middle
English Language Learners - Middle
Basic Skills - Primary
Connections
Criminal Justice
Economics
English Language Learners - High School
English Language Learners - Intermediate
Basic Skills - Intermediate
PE-Level 1
Library - Middle Level
Life Skills - High School
Life Skills - Intermediate
Life Skills - Middle
Life Skills - Primary
Middle Grades General Music
Middle Grades Physical Education
Middle School F.A.C.S.
Middle School Technology
Health - Middle Grades
Participation in Government
Learning Center - Primary
PE-Level 2
High School Applied Food Services
Physical Education 9th Grade
Primary Art
Primary Grades General Music
Primary Grades Physical Education
Statistics
Studio in Art
Theory of Knowledge
Visual Arts- Advanced
Middle-level Art
High School Vocal Music

PE-Level 3
Visual Arts- Basic
High School Child Development
High School Culinary
High School Design & Drawing for Production
High School Electronics
High School Food Prep and Nutrition
High School Human Resources Management
High School Instrumental Music
High School Intro. to Market Management
Library - High School
High School Sports Management
Library - Elementary Level
Intermediate Art
Intermediate Grades General Music
Intermediate Grades Physical Education
Introduction to Dance
Introduction to Psychology
Introduction to Theater
Learning Center - High School
Learning Center - Intermediate
Learning Center - Middle
Health - High School
High School Intro. to Micro Soft Office

Task 3 Course Name
4 ELA
5 ELA
6 ELA
7 ELA
8 ELA
4 Math
5 Math
6 Math
7 Math
8 Math
3 ELA
3 Math

Since pre-assessments are not a Department requirement with student learning objectives (SLOs), one possible approach through which your district could reduce the number of assessments given is by using past performance trends, historical data, and/or prior-year assessment results to inform the baseline used to set targets within SLOs, rather than requiring teachers to give a pre-assessment to students at the beginning of the interval of instruction (year, semester, quarter, etc.).

The following resources may be particularly helpful:

- The SLO 103 for Teachers webinar (http://www.engageny.org/resource/slo-103-for-teachers)
- The Assessments in APPR webinar (http://www.engageny.org/resource/assessments-in-annual-professional-performance-review-appr)
- Sections D28, D29, D37, D47, and D69 of the APPR Guidance document (http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/appr-field-guidance.pdf)

In addition, please allow the following districts' approved APPR plans to serve as examples of districts that have made decisions to eliminate pre-assessment use in their APPR plans:

- Tuckahoe Union Free School District (http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/teachers-leaders/plans/docs/tuckahoe-ufsd-appr-plan.pdf)
- Rochester City School District (http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/teachers-leaders/plans/docs/rochester-appr-plan.pdf)
- Webster Central School District (http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/teachers-leaders/plans/docs/webster-appr-plan.pdf)

Consideration 2: Use of Multiple Assessments in Task 2 and Task 3

The use of different assessments for the Locally-selected Measures subcomponent from those used for the State Growth or Other Comparable Measures subcomponent is a local decision made through collective bargaining.

The APPR team has found examples of where your district has collectively bargained the use of different assessments in Task 3, the Locally-selected Measures subcomponent, than the district selected in Task 2, the State Growth or Other Comparable Measures subcomponent, to assess the same students within the same grade and subject.

There are a number of possible approaches through which your district can, subject to collective bargaining decisions, reduce the number of assessments in these subcomponents. Please see the chart below:

Course	Task 2 Assessment Name	Task 3 Assessment Name
3 ELA	NYS Grade 3 ELA Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 3 ELA Assessment
3 Math	NYS Grade 3 Math Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 3 Math Assessment

Consideration 3: Use of School- or BOCES-wide, Group, or Team Measures

The use of school- or BOCES-wide, group, or team measures with one or more State/Regents assessment(s) is a local decision made through collective bargaining.

The APPR team has found examples of where your district can, subject to collective bargaining decisions, further reduce the number of assessments used in Task 2, the State Growth or Other Comparable Measures subcomponent, and/or in Task 3, the Locally-selected Measures subcomponent, through the use of a school- or BOCES-wide, group, or team measure based on one or more State/Regents assessment(s).

Please see the chart below:

Course	Task 2 Assessment Name	Task 3 Assessment Name
K ELA	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade K ELA Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade K ELA Assessment
1 ELA	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 1 ELA Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 1 ELA Assessment
2 ELA	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 2 ELA Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 2 ELA Assessment
K Math	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade K Math Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade K Math Assessment
1 Math	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 1 Math Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 1 Math Assessment
2 Math	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 2 Math Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 2 Math Assessment
7 SCI	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 7 Science Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 7 Science Assessment
7 SS	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 7 Social Studies Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 7 Social Studies Assessment
8 SS	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 8 Social Studies Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 8 Social Studies Assessment
Global 1	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 9 Global 1 Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Global 1 Assessment
9 English	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 9 ELA Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 9 ELA Assessment
10 English	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 10 ELA Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 10 ELA Assessment
12th Grade English	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 12 ELA Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 12 English Assessment
Connections	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Connections Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Connections Assessment
Theory of Knowledge	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Theory of Knowledge Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Theory of Knowledge Assessment
Statistics	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Statistics Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Statistics Assessment
College Bound Math	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed College Bound Math Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed College Bound Math Assessment
Algebra 1B/Geometry	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Algebra 1B/Geometry Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Algebra 1B/Geometry Assessment
Participation in Government	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Participation in Government Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Participation in Government Assessment
Economics	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Economics Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Economics Assessment

Government AP	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Government AP Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Government AP Assessment
20th Century Topics	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed 20th Century Topics Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed 20th Century Topics Assessment
Introduction to Psychology	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Introduction to Psychology Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Introduction to Psychology Assessment
Criminal Justice	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Criminal Justice Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Criminal Justice Assessment
First Aid/Sports Medicine	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed First Aid/Sports Medicine Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed First Aid/Sports Medicine Assessment
Environmental Science	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Environmental Science Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Environmental Science Assessment
Primary Art	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Primary Art Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Primary Art Assessment
Intermediate Art	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Intermediate Art Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Intermediate Art Assessment
Middle-level Art	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle-level Art Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle-level Art Assessment
Studio in Art	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Studio in Art Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Studio in Art Assessment
Visual Arts- Basic	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Visual Arts-Basic Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Visual Arts-Basic Assessment
Visual Arts- Advanced	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Visual Arts-Advanced Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Visual Arts-Advanced Assessment
Primary Grades General Music	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Primary Grades General Music Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Primary Grades General Music Assessment
Intermediate Grades General Music	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Intermediate General Music Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Intermediate Grades General Music Assessment
Basic Instrumental Music	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Basic Instrumental Music Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades General Music Assessment
Middle Grades General Music	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades General Music Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades Instrumental Music Assessment
High School Vocal Music	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Vocal Music Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Vocal Music Assessment
High School Instrumental Music	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Instrumental Music Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Instrumental Music Assessment
Introduction to Theater	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Introduction to Theater Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Introduction to Theater Assessment
Introduction to Dance	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Introduction to Dance Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Introduction to Dance Assessment
Primary Grades Physical Education	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Primary Grades Physical Education Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Primary Grades Physical Education Assessment
Intermediate Grades Physical Education	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Intermediate Grades Physical Education Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Intermediate Grades Physical Education Assessment
Middle Grades Physical Education	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades Physical Education Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades Physical Education Assessment
Physical Education 9th Grade	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 9 Physical Education Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 9 Physical Education Assessment
PE-Level 1	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Level 1 Physical Education Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Level 1 Physical Education Assessment
PE-Level 2	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Level 2 Physical Education Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Level 2 Physical Education Assessment

PE-Level 3	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Level 3 Physical Education Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Level 3 Physical Education Assessment
Grades K-8 - Arabic	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade K-8 Arabic Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade K-8 Arabic Assessment
Grades K-8 - Chinese	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade K-8 Chinese Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade K-8 Chinese Assessment
Grades K-8 - French	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade K-8 French Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade K-8 French Assessment
Grades K-8 - Spanish	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade K-8 Spanish Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade K-8 Spanish Assessment
Grades 9-12 - Arabic	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 9-12 Arabic Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 9-12 Arabic Assessment
Grades 9-12 - Chinese	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 9-12 Chinese Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 9-12 Chinese Assessment
Grades 9-12 - French	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 9-12 French Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 9-12 French Assessment
Grades 9-12 - Spanish	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 9-12 Spanish Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade 9-12 Spanish Assessment
Middle School Technology	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle School Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle School Technology Assessment
High School Electronics	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Electronics Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Electronics Assessment
High School Design & Drawing for Production	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Design & Drawing for Production Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Design & Drawing for Production Assessment
Middle School F.A.C.S.	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades Family and Consumer Science Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades Family and Consumer Sciences Assessment
High School Child Development	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Child Development Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Child Development Assessment
High School Food Prep and Nutrition	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Food Prep and Nutrition Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Food Prep and Nutrition Assessment
High School Applied Food Services	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Applied Food Services Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Applied Food Services Assessment
High School Culinary	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Culinary Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Applied Food Services Assessment
High School Intro. to Market Management	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Intro. to Market Management Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Intro. to Market Management Assessment
High School Intro. to Micro Soft Office	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Intro to Micro Soft Office Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Intro. to Micro Soft Office Assessment
High School Business Law	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Business Law Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Business Law Assessment
High School Human Resources Management	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Human Resources Management Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Human Resources Management Assessment
High School Sports Management	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Sports Management Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Sports Management Assessment
Health - Middle Grades	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades Health Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades Health Assessment
Health - High School	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Health Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Health Assessment
Library - Elementary Level	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Elementary Level Library Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Elementary Level Library Assessment
Library - Middle Level	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Level Library Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Level Library Assessment

Library - High School	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Library Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Library Assessment
Learning Center - Primary	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade Primary Grades Learning Center Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Primary Grades Learning Center Assessment
Learning Center - Intermediate	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade Intermediate Grades Learning Center Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Intermediate Grades Learning Center Assessment
Learning Center - Middle	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades Learning Center Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades Learning Center Assessment
Learning Center - High School	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Learning Center Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Learning Center Assessment
Basic Skills - Primary	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade Primary Grades Basic Skills Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Primary Grades Learning Center Assessment
Basic Skills - Intermediate	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade Intermediate Grades Basic Skills Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Intermediate Grades Basic Skills Assessment
Basic Skills - Middle	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades Basic Skills Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades Basic Skills Assessment
Basic Skills - High School	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Basic Skills Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Basic Skills Assessment
Life Skills - Primary	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade Primary Grades Life Skills Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Primary Grades Life Skills Assessment
Life Skills - Intermediate	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade Intermediate Grades Life Skills Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Intermediate Grades Life Skills Assessment
Life Skills - Middle	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades Life Skills Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades Life Skills Assessment
Life Skills - High School	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Life Skills Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School Life Skills Assessment
English Language Learners - Primary	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade Primary Grades ELL Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Primary Grades ELL Assessment
English Language Learners - Intermediate	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Grade Intermediate Grades ELL Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Intermediate Grades ELL Assessment
English Language Learners - Middle	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades ELL Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed Middle Grades ELL Assessment
English Language Learners - High School	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School ELL Assessment	SCHENECTADY CITY SD-Developed High School ELL Assessment

For both Consideration Two and Three, please keep in mind these possible approaches to reducing assessments given within a district:

1. ***State Growth and Locally-selected subcomponent measures may use different measures based on the same assessment.*** Remove one of the assessments used for either Task 2 or Task 3 and use the same assessment in both subcomponents, but in different ways (e.g., growth versus achievement; student sub-groups, such as lowest or highest performing students).
2. ***State assessments may be used in both State Growth and Locally-selected subcomponent measures (requiring no additional testing).*** Remove the current use of locally-adopted assessments and replace with existing State assessments and/or use a school- or BOCES-wide, group, or team growth measure (e.g., in a K-8 school building, for the State Growth subcomponent in those grades/subjects that do not lead to a State or Regents assessment: school-wide measure based on 4th grade ELA and Math State assessments; for the Locally-selected subcomponent: State-provided school-wide growth score for all students taking 4-8 ELA State assessments).
3. ***School-wide growth or achievement results may be used based on one or more State assessment(s) or other approved assessment(s).*** Remove the current use of locally-adopted assessments in one subcomponent and replace with school- or BOCES-wide, group, or team measures based on State assessments (State Growth subcomponent) or with school-wide growth or achievement based on State or locally-adopted assessments (Locally-selected subcomponent).

Please also keep in mind the following:

- "Assessments" need not be standardized tests, but could instead be performance assessments (e.g., extended essay responses, science experiments, and/or another authentic application of skills). For students in kindergarten through second grade, traditional standardized third party assessments are prohibited[2].
- For non-core subject areas in the State Growth or Other Comparable Measures subcomponent, you can remove additional assessments in favor of using school-wide, group, or team measures based on State/Regents assessments already given in the building. The only grades/subjects that cannot use a school-wide, group or team measures for the State Growth subcomponent are those with a State/Regents assessment in that grade/subject. All other grades/subjects are considered "non-core" and may use a school-wide, group, or team measure (Section D21 of the APPR Guidance document: http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/appr-field-guidance.pdf).
- For principals, the same assessments that are used for the teachers' State Growth or Other Comparable Measures and/or Locally-selected Measures subcomponents can be used for principals in these subcomponents to avoid administering additional assessments to students.

The following resources may be particularly helpful:

- The School-wide SLOs webinar (http://www.engageny.org/resource/school-wide-slos)
- The Assessments in APPR webinar (http://www.engageny.org/resource/assessments-in-annual-professional-performance-review-appr)
- For K-2 assessments used for the purposes of APPR, please see:
  - The Removal of Traditional Standardized Third Party Assessments in K-2 FAQ that provides further information as to the removal of K-2 traditional standardized third party assessments from the State-approved list (https://www.engageny.org/file/96701/download/k-2_removal_of_traditional_standardized_third_party_assessments_guidance.pdf)
  - The K-2 APPR Assessment Guidance document that provides guidance to districts and BOCES on selecting third party assessments for use with students in kindergarten through grade two (K-2) for the purposes of teacher and principal APPRs. This document replaces the Request for Qualification (RFQ) process previously used to determine state-approved K-2 assessments for APPR purposes (https://www.engageny.org/file/96706/download/k-2-assessment-guidance.pdf)
  - The APPR Guidance Document, specifically F15
  - The K-2 Assessment Pathways document (http://www.engageny.org/resource/early-elementary-assessments)
- Task 2 of Task-by-Task Guidance (see: Sections 2D24-2D28) and Task 3 (Sections 3D25-3D29) (http://www.engageny.org/resource/task-by-task-guidance)
- APPR Training Modules for Task 2 (slides 36-38) and Task 3 (slides 16, 30-35) (http://www.engageny.org/resource/appr-training-modules)

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[2] Please note: Effective March 2, 2014, the Department has removed all third party assessments for use in kindergarten through grade two **only** from its posted approved third-party assessment list. For further information about the regulatory amendments adopted at the February and March 2014 Regents' meetings, please see: http://www.engageny.org/resource/guidance-on-the-approved-regulatory-amendments-to-appr-to-help-reduce-local-testing, the K-2 Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) Assessment Guidance Document, the Removal of Traditional Standardized Third Party Assessments in K-2 FAQ and F15 of the APPR Guidance Document. Please note that school districts or BOCES with an APPR plan that was approved or determined by the Commissioner prior to April 1, 2014 that provides for the use of an approved student assessment for students in grades K-2 remains in effect in accordance with Education Law §3012-c(2)(l) and the district or BOCES may continue to use such assessments until a material change is made to their APPR plan and approved by the Commissioner to eliminate such use.

In addition, please allow the following districts' approved APPR plans to serve as examples of districts that have made decisions to eliminate assessments used in their APPR plans:

- Parishville-Hopkinton Central School District (http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/teachers-leaders/plans/docs/parishville-hopkinton-appr-plan.pdf)
- Rochester City School District (http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/teachers-leaders/plans/docs/rochester-appr-plan.pdf)
- Webster Central School District (http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/teachers-leaders/plans/docs/webster-appr-plan.pdf)

Please note that the items listed in this memorandum are in no way an exhaustive list of ways in which your district could adjust your approved APPR plan and are intended solely for informational purposes. Districts, within the context of state regulations and frameworks, should locally determine the most appropriate assessments to use within the APPR system after first analyzing their unique priorities and needs. To the extent it would be helpful, the APPR Team can provide additional technical assistance or clarify existing guidance to ensure that your district receives the support necessary to successfully make a material change to your approved APPR plan.

In accordance with Section 1 of Subpart F of Chapter 56 of the laws of 2014, please also note that all school districts are required to:

- publicly post this memorandum on the school district's website (if one exists);
- supplement the information contained in this memorandum to include any standardized tests not specified by the Department; and
- ensure a public discussion of the contents of this memorandum in a manner to be determined by the district, including discussion on the extent to which the standardized tests not required by state or federal law are beneficial to the educational process or may be eliminated to reduce over testing.

The New York State Education Department and the Office of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness will work alongside you to continue to look for ways to reduce testing that is not needed without sacrificing the valuable information provided by assessments. The Department encourages districts to do the same. Together, our collective goal is to ensure that every school has world-class educators in the classroom, every teacher has a world-class principal to support his or her professional growth, and every student achieves college and career readiness.

Please feel free to reach out to the APPR team via educatoreval@mail.nysed.gov for more information and assistance.