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New York State Education Department
Office of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness
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MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendent Brian Conboy, SEAFORD UFSD
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 decisions¹.

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) <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):

<u>Task 2 Course Name</u>
K ELA
1 ELA
2 ELA
3 ELA
K Math
1 Math
2 Math
3 Math
6 SCI
7 SCI
8 SCI
6 SS
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
Family and Consumer Science 7
Elementary ESL
Elementary Math Lab
Elementary Music
Elementary Physical Education
Elementary Reading-Rtl
Elementary Speech
Grade 6 Computer
French AP
Family and Consumer Science 6
Computer Skills for College and Careers
Fashion Merchandizing

Foreign Cultures 6
Forensic Science
French 2
French 3
Grade 6 Chorus
French 7
French 8
Grade 6 Band
Grade 6 Art
English 12
Chemistry AP
Accounting
AP Art/Drawing
AP Physics B
Architectural CAD
Basic Car Care
Biology AP
Business and Personal Law
Calculus AB
Calculus BC
Career and Financial Management
Drawing and Painting 1
Career Development Program-MS
Elementary Band
College Accounting
Computer Graphics 1
Computer Graphics 2
Grade 7 Art
Digital Film Production 1
Drawing and Painting 2
Economics
Economics-SUPA
Electricity/Electronics
Elementary Art
Career Development Plan- HS
Pre- AP Computer Science Java-1
Science 7 Enriched
Resource Room- HS
Publications-HS
Psychology-SUPA
Psychology
Production Systems
Music Theory 1
Pre-Calculus
Sports and Entertainment Marketing
Physical Education -HS
Photography 2
Photography 1

Participation in Government-SUPA
Participation in Government
Grade 6 Music
Pre-Calculus-Advanced
Transportation Systems
Spanish 7
Spanish 3
Spanish 2
Spanish 1
Software Development VB-2
Sociology
Sculpture
Ungraded Primary 1
Spanish AP
The Oceans
Technology Education 8
Symphonic Band
Student Support Class K-1
Student Support Class Grade 3
Student Support Class Grade 2
MS Resource Room
Ungraded Primary 2
Grade 7 Physical Education
HS Concert Band
HS Chorale
Health -HS
Graphic Design
Grade 8 Physical Education
Grade 8 Band
Music Theory 2
Grade 7 Spanish
Integrated Algebra 2/Trigonometry Extended 1
Grade 7 Health
Grade 7 General Music
Grade 7 French
Grade 7 Band
Spanish 8
Grade 6 Physical Education
Grade 7/8 Chorus
Keyboarding for Business and College
Math/Science/Technology Principles
Math and Finance Applications
Math 12
Marketing/Advertizing
Marine Biology
Literacy Workshop Grade 8
HS Mixed Chorus
Learning Lab-HS

Human Anatomy and Physiology
Italian 3
Introduction to Media Arts
Intro to Software Development VB-1
Intro to Art
Integrated Geometry Emphasized
Integrated Algebra 2/Trigonometry Extended 2
Grade 6 Foreign Cultures
Literacy Workshop Grade 7

Task 3 Course Name
K ELA
K 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](http://www.engageny.org/resource/slo-103-for-teachers) webinar
(<http://www.engageny.org/resource/slo-103-for-teachers>)
- The [Assessments in APPR](http://www.engageny.org/resource/assessments-in-annual-professional-performance-review-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](http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/appr-field-guidance.pdf) 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)
(<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)
(<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)
(<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
K ELA	STAR Reading Enterprise	STAR Early Literacy Enterprise
K Math	STAR Math Enterprise	STAR Early Literacy Enterprise
MS Resource Room	NYS Grade 6-8 ELA/Math Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed MS Resource Room Assessment
Learning Lab -HS	All Regents	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Learning Lab Assessment
Resource Room-HS	All Regents	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed HS Resource Room Assessment
Integrated Geometry Emphasized	Geometry Regents	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Integrated Geometry Emphasized 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:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Task 2 Assessment Name</u>	<u>Task 3 Assessment Name</u>
1 ELA	STAR Reading Enterprise	STAR Reading Enterprise
2 ELA	STAR Reading Enterprise	STAR Reading Enterprise
1 Math	STAR Math Enterprise	STAR Math Enterprise
2 Math	STAR Math Enterprise	STAR Math Enterprise
6 SCI	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Science Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Science Assessment
7 SCI	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Science Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Science Assessment
6 SS	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Social Studies Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Social Studies Assessment
7 SS	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Social Studies Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Social Studies Assessment
8 SS	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 8 Social Studies Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 8 Social Studies Assessment
Global 1	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Global 1 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 9 Social Studies Assessment
9 English	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 9 ELA Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 9 ELA Assessment
10 English	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 10 ELA Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 10 ELA Assessment
Elementary Art	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Elementary Art Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Elementary Art Assessment
Elementary Physical Education	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Elementary Physical Education Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Elementary Physical Education Assessment
Elementary Music	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Elementary Music Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Elementary Music Assessment
Ungraded Primary 1	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Primary 1 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed UP I Assessment
Ungraded Primary 2	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Primary 2 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed UP II Assessment
Student Support Class K-1	STAR Early Literacy Enterprise	STAR Early Literacy Enterprise
Student Support Class Grade 2	STAR Math Enterprise, STAR Reading Enterprise	STAR Math Enterprise, STAR Reading Enterprise
Elementary Band	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Elementary Band Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Elementary Band Assessment
Grade 6 Art	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Art Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Art Assessment
Grade 7 Art	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Art Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Art Assessment
Grade 6 Music	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Music Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Music Assessment
Grade 7 Band	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Band Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Band Assessment
Grade 8 Band	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 8 Band Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 8 Band Assessment
Grade 7 General Music	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 General Music Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 General Music Assessment
Grade 6 Chorus	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Chorus Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Chorus Assessment

Grade 7/8 Chorus	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7, 8 Chorus Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7/8 Chorus Assessment
Grade 6 Computer	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Computer Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Computer Assessment
Family and Consumer Science 6	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Family and Consumer Science Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Family and Consumer Science Assessment
Family and Consumer Science 7	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Family and Consumer Science Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Family and Consumer Science Assessment
Grade 7 Health	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Health Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Health Assessment
Grade 6 Foreign Cultures	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Foreign Cultures Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Foreign Cultures Assessment
Grade 6 Physical Education	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Physical Education Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 6 Physical Education Assessment
Grade 7 Spanish	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Spanish Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Spanish Assessment
Grade 7 French	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 French Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 French Assessment
Grade 7 Physical Education	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Physical Education Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Physical Education Assessment
Grade 8 Physical Education	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 8 Physical Education Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 8 Physical Education Assessment
Spanish 8	Regional FLACS-Developed Spanish Checkpoint A Assessment	Regional FLACS-Developed Spanish Checkpoint A Assessment
French 8	Regional FLACS-Developed French Checkpoint A Assessment	Regional FLACS-Developed French Checkpoint A Assessment
Technology Education 8	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 8 Technology Education Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 8 Technology Assessment
Science 7 Enriched	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Enriched Science Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 7 Science Enriched Assessment
Career Development Program- MS	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed MS Career Development Program Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed MS Career Development Program Assessment
Career Development Program-HS	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed HS Career Development Program Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed HS Career Development Program Assessment
English 12	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 12 English Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 12 English Assessment
Economics	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Economics Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Economics Assessment
Participation in Government	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Participation in Government Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Participation in Government Assessment
Math 12	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 12 Math Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Grade 12 Math Assessment
Publications-HS	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Publications Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed HS Publications Assessment
Sociology	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Sociology Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Sociology Assessment
Psychology	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Psychology Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Psychology Assessment
Participation in Government-SUPA	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Syracuse University Project Advanced Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Syracuse University Project Advanced Participation in Government Assessment
Psychology-SUPA	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Syracuse University Project Advanced Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Psychology Syracuse University Project Advanced Assessment
Economics-SUPA	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Syracuse University Project Advanced Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Syracuse University Project Advanced Economics Assessment
Integrated Algebra 2/Trigonometry Extended 1	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Integrated Algebra 2 Trigonometry Extended-Year 1 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Integrated Algebra 2 Trigonometry Extended 1 Assessment
Pre-Calculus	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Pre-Calculus Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Pre-Calculus Assessment
Pre-Calculus Advanced	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Pre-Calculus Advanced Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Pre-Calculus Advanced Assessment
Calculus AB	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Calculus AB Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Calculus AB Assessment

Calculus BC	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Calculus BC Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Calculus BC Assessment
Biology AP	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Biology AP Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Biology AP Assessment
Chemistry AP	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Chemistry AP Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Chemistry AP Assessment
AP Physics B	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed AP Physics B Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed AP Physics B Assessment
Human Anatomy and Physiology	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Human Anatomy and Physiology Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Human Anatomy and Physiology Assessment
Marine Biology	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Marine Biology Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Marine Biology Assessment
Forensic Science	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Forensic Science Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Forensic Science Assessment
The Oceans	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed The Oceans Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed The Oceans Assessment
French 2	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed French 2 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed French 2 Assessment
French 3	Regional FLACS-Developed French Checkpoint B Assessment	Regional FLACS-Developed French Checkpoint B Assessment
French AP	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed French AP Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed French AP Assessment
Spanish 1	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Spanish 1 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Spanish 1 Assessment
Spanish 2	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Spanish 2 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Spanish 2 Assessment
Spanish 3	Regional FLACS-Developed Spanish Checkpoint B Assessment	Regional FLACS-Developed Spanish Checkpoint B Assessment
Spanish AP	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Spanish AP Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Spanish AP Assessment
Italian 3	Regional FLACS-Developed Italian Checkpoint B Assessment	Regional FLACS-Developed Italian Checkpoint B Assessment
Keyboarding for Business and College	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Keyboarding for Business and College Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Keyboarding for Business and College Assessment
Computer Skills for College and Careers	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Computer Skills for College and Careers Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Computer Skills for College and Careers Assessment
Fashion Merchandizing	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Fashion Merchandising Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Fashion Merchandising Assessment
Career and Financial Management	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Career and Financial Management Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Career and Financial Management Assessment
Sports and Entertainment Marketing	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Sports and Entertainment Marketing Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Sports and Entertainment Marketing Assessment
Marketing/Advertizing	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Marketing/Advertising Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Marketing/Advertising Assessment
Accounting	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Accounting Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Accounting Assessment
College Accounting	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed College Accounting Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed College Accounting Assessment
Business and Personal Law	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Business and Personal Law Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Business and Personal Law Assessment
Math and Finance Applications	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Math and Financial Applications Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Math and Finance Applications Assessment
Intro. To Software Development VB-1	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Intro to Software Development VB 1 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Intro to Software Development VB-1 Assessment
Pre -AP Computer Science Java-1	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Pre AP Computer Science JAVA 1 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Pre-AP Computer Science Java 1 Assessment
Software Development VB-2	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Software Development VB 2 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Software Development VB-2 Assessment
Electricity/Electronics	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Electricity/Electronics Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Electricity/Electronics Assessment
Production Systems	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Production Systems Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Production Systems Assessment
Transportation Systems	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Transportation Systems Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Transportation Systems Assessment
Architectural CAD	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Architectural CAD Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Architectural CAD Assessment

Basic Car Care	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Basic Car Care Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Basic Car Care Assessment
Photography 1	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Photography 1 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Photography 1 Assessment
Photography 2	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Photography 2 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Photography 2 Assessment
Math/Science/Technology Principles	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Math/Science/Technology Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Math/Science/Technology Assessment
Intro. to Art	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Intro to Art Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Intro to Art Assessment
Intro. to Media Arts	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Introduction to Media Arts Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Intro to Media Arts Assessment
Computer Graphics 1	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Computer Graphics 1 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Computer Graphics 1 Assessment
Computer Graphics 2	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Computer Graphics 2 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Computer Graphics 2 Assessment
Graphic Design	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Graphic Design Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Graphic Design Assessment
Digital Film Production 1	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Digital Film Production 1 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Digital Film Production 1 Assessment
Drawing and Painting 1	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Drawing and Painting 1 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Drawing and Painting 1 Assessment
Drawing and Painting 2	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Drawing and Painting 2 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Drawing and Painting 2 Assessment
Sculpture	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Sculpture Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Sculpture Assessment
AP Art and Drawing	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed AP Art/Drawing Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed AP Art and Drawing Assessment
Health-HS	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed HS Health Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed HS Health Assessment
Physical Education- HS	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Physical Education Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed HS Physical Education Assessment
Mixed Chorus- HS	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed HS Mixed Chorus Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed HS Mixed Chorus Assessment
Chorale-HS	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed HS Chorale Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Chorale Assessment
Symphonic Band	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Symphonic Band Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Symphonic Band Assessment
Concert Band-HS	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed HS Concert Band Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Concert Band Assessment
Music Theory 1	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Music Theory 1 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Music Theory 1 Assessment
Music Theory 2	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Music Theory 2 Assessment	SEAFORD UFSD-Developed Music Theory 2 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 prohibited².
- 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](http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/appr-field-guidance.pdf) 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](http://www.engageny.org/resource/school-wide-slos) webinar (<http://www.engageny.org/resource/school-wide-slos>)
- The [Assessments in APPR](http://www.engageny.org/resource/assessments-in-annual-professional-performance-review-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](https://www.engageny.org/file/96701/download/k-2_removal_of_traditional_standardized_third_party_assessments_guidance.pdf) 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](https://www.engageny.org/file/96706/download/k-2-assessment-guidance.pdf) 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](http://www.engageny.org/resource/early-elementary-assessments) document (<http://www.engageny.org/resource/early-elementary-assessments>)
- Task 2 of [Task-by-Task Guidance](http://www.engageny.org/resource/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](http://www.engageny.org/resource/appr-training-modules) for Task 2 (slides 36-38) and Task 3 (slides 16, 30-35) (<http://www.engageny.org/resource/appr-training-modules>)

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)
(<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)
(<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)
(<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.