

Summary of April 2018 Board of Regents Meeting

The April 2018 Board of Regents (BOR) meeting began with an update of the work being done by the Blue Ribbon Commission for the Arts. In December 2017, the Board of Regents (BOR) approved new PK-12 Learning Standards for the Arts. Since then the Commission has been working toward implementation of the standards and exploring related assessment possibilities including an Individual Arts Assessment Pathway (IAAP) 4+1 graduation option.

Some of their key areas of focus include:

1. Facilitation of over 60 professional development workshops in recent months across the state with more scheduled for spring and summer. Approximately 90 teacher trainers in the areas of dance, music, theater, and visual and media arts are delivering the training on how to best implement the new learning standards.
2. Publishing a guidance document to assist teachers with implementing the new standards.
3. Exploring new and alternative assessment options that align with the standards. The committee recently surveyed a cross section of districts across the state to gather feedback on possible assessment formats for the IAAP 4+1 option. While AP and IB course options currently exist, the committee hopes to create opportunities that are accessible to more students across the state. **One possibility would be to develop a process for students to submit a portfolio of work as evidence of achievement.**

A second option is to adapt existing assessment materials and strategies to develop an end-of-year standardized assessment which would be combined with a portfolio. The most popular assessment to work from appears to be the Commencement General Education Level Assessment (C-GEL) which has been used previously. Combined with a student portfolio, many

practitioners feel this combination of both a performance and end-of- course assessment is a good model to work toward.

It was evident from the follow-up discussion that there is a great deal of support for this initiative from the BOR members. Much work still needs to be done by the committee and no timeline for the development and potential approval of the IAAP pathway assessment(s) was

discussed.<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/april-2018-full-board-presentation-arts.pdf>