March 30, 2017

To: Deans and Directors of Institutions of Higher Education Offering Educator Preparation Programs
   Certification Officers
   Other Interested Parties

From: John L. D’Agati

Subject: Elimination of the Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST) for Teacher Certification Effective March 14, 2017

The Board of Regents adopted a proposed amendment to eliminate the Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST) for teacher certification at its March 2017 meeting. The amendment was submitted as an emergency action, thereby eliminating the requirement of the ALST for certification effective March 14, 2017.

Following the 45-day public comment period, it is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be adopted as a permanent rule at the July 2017 Board of Regents meeting and will become effective August 2, 2017. The full text of the proposed amendment is available online at https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/317hea1revised.pdf.

Please inform all teacher candidates, faculty, and staff that the ALST is no longer required for teacher certification and candidates should not enroll in preparation courses for it. Candidates who registered for the exam, but have not taken it, were notified by NYSTCE that their registrations had been cancelled and that they would receive a refund.

In lieu of the ALST, the Department will modify the Educating All Students (EAS) test so that it assesses literacy skills in addition to candidates’ ability to teach a diverse population. As a result, the Department is extending the safety net for the EAS until the revised EAS becomes operational.

Candidates that applied for certification and were not certified prior to the elimination of the ALST and need the ALST requirement exempted will need to email examsafetynet@nysed.gov to request the ALST to be exempted.