

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 8, 2015

From: Julia Wrigley *Julia Wrigley*
Interim Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and University Provost

To: Chief Academic Officers

Subject: Revised Proficiency Standards Based on the new Common Core Regents Examinations in Algebra I and English Language Arts

Last June, the New York State Education Department introduced a new Regents examination to test students completing Algebra I as well as a new Regents exam in English Language Arts (ELA). Both tests are oriented to the Common Core State Standards. Because scores on the new math exam are systematically lower than those on the previously administered Integrated Algebra exam, it is necessary to adjust CUNY's cut point for basic proficiency in math. After extensive research, we have set the new standard at a score of 70 or higher on Algebra I and successful completion of Algebra II/Trigonometry or higher. Students who have taken Integrated Algebra will continue to be considered math proficient with a score of 80 or better on the test and completion of Algebra II/ Trigonometry or higher. The Integrated Algebra exam will likely be administered for the last time in June 2015. We expect that the percentage of prospective CUNY students achieving proficiency via the new test will remain about the same as percentage who have met the CUNY standard in the past on the basis of the Integrated Algebra test and the requirement that students take and pass Algebra II/Trigonometry

CUNY will seek DOE cooperation in ensuring that students take Algebra II or a higher math course in high school. High school students are required to take three math courses to graduate but are not specifically required to take Algebra II. A large number of students who enter CUNY's community colleges have not taken Algebra II or a higher course. We will ask for DOE assurance that students have access to the requisite courses and are being appropriately and strongly advised to take Algebra II/Trigonometry.

Consistent with previous policy, students can also demonstrate basic proficiency in mathematics by the following means:

- An SAT math score of 500 or higher (ACT of 21), or
- A COMPASS score of 40 or higher on the elementary algebra module, or
- Successful completion of elementary algebra or a college-level credit-bearing course in mathematics at a CUNY college or other regionally or New York State accredited institution. Successful completion is a passing grade within CUNY and a C or better for non-CUNY courses.

The minimum passing score on the new ELA Regents will remain at 75—no change from the cut point on the previous ELA Regents.