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November 2016

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Public School Administrators
Nonpublic School Administrators
Charter School Administrators
Leaders of Regional Information Centers

FROM: Angelica Infante-Green *A. Infante - Green*

SUBJECT: Updated Computer-Based Question Sampler

This memorandum provides information about the release of the New York State Education Department's Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics computer-based testing (CBT) online Question Sampler for the 2016-17 school year. The Question Sampler allows users to practice answering questions in each grade/subject on computer using previously released New York State test questions. Educators, parents, and students can gain experience with the testing tools and accommodations available in the computer-based testing environment.

The updated Question Sampler, developed by NYSED's contractor for the Grades 3-8 assessments, Questar Assessment, Inc., can be accessed at:
<https://ny-practice.nextera.questarai.com/>.

After last June's administration of computer-based stand-alone field tests, the Department worked with participating schools to identify needed features and enhanced functionality for improving the online testing experience. The Questar test delivery system, called "Nextera," has a new look and feel for this school year with better access to online testing tools. This new look and feel that you will see in the updated Question Sampler and the spring 2017 test delivery system includes a math Equation Editor for students to show their work and construct short answers, a larger text box in which students can type and review their ELA constructed responses, Review & Submit features, and more.

School participation in operational computer-based testing and stand-alone field testing on computers will be voluntary for spring 2017 and can be selected through the NYSED's online examination request system. For operational testing, principals are currently able to choose computer-based or print-based testing by grade and content area.

We encourage those schools and districts that believe they are technologically ready and have classrooms that will benefit from an online testing experience to administer operational CBT in their schools. Details about "tech readiness" as well as other CBT resources are available under "Resources" on the CBT Support website: <http://bit.ly/2fdm1dX>.

Please send any questions or comments about the updated Question Sampler to cbtsupport@nysed.gov.