




TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Betty A. Rosa

SUBJECT: Appointment of Dr. Owen Donovan to Interim Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Professions

DATE: May 19, 2026

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Will the Board of Regents approve my appointment of Dr. Owen Donovan to Interim Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Professions?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Dr. Owen Donovan has accumulated over 19 years of experience within the New York State Education Department. Throughout his period of service, he has held managerial roles in four distinct program areas (OP, OHE, ACCES, and P-12). Since 2024, Dr. Donovan has served as the Assistant Commissioner, Professional Licensing and Practice. In his current role Dr. Donovan oversees matters of policy and practice across New York State's 56 professions licensed under Title VIII of the New York Education Law. He provides leadership and direction to 250 staff members across three OP divisions – Division of Professional Education, Division of Professional Licensing Services, and the State Board Offices (33 State Boards and Committees for the Professions). He also coordinates with the leadership of the New York State Department of Health and other State agencies regarding the policy and practice of New York State's 49 health-related professions and the workforce settings in which they intersect. He works with members of the New York State Legislature to ensure newly proposed legislation is reflective of the policy direction for licensed professions established by the Department and the Board of Regents.

Prior to his current role, Dr. Donovan served as the Executive Coordinator for Professional Practice in the Office of the Professions. Dr. Donovan also collaborates with New York State Department of Health leadership and other New York State agencies regarding policy and practices impacting the 39 health-related licensed professions and the various settings in which they intersect (e.g., schools, hospitals, community clinics, etc.).

Upon the passage of new policies and regulations, Dr. Donovan is tasked with the design, implementation, and enforcement of those changes to ensure public protection and sound professional practice.

Dr. Donovan holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from SUNY Albany, a Master of Science in Education, Health Education, and a Bachelor of Science, Physical Education, from SUNY Cortland.

Proposed Handling

This recommendation is to appoint Dr. Owen Donovan to the position of Interim Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Professions. This appointment will come before the Full Board for action at its May 2026 meeting.

Procedural History

Not applicable.

Background Information

Not applicable.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Dr. Owen Donovan to the position of Interim Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Professions.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the recommendation, the appointment will be effective May 21, 2026.