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**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2020 3:35 PM  
**To:** Glenn, Lane <[lglen@necc.mass.edu](mailto:lglen@necc.mass.edu)>; Goodwin, Cheryl <[cgoodwin@necc.mass.edu](mailto:cgoodwin@necc.mass.edu)>  
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**Subject:** Task Force for Statewide Assessment: Refocusing for the Future



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Carlos E. Santiago  
*Commissioner*  
Chris Gabrieli  
*Board Chairman*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Dr. Lane Glenn, President, Northern Essex Community College  
Chair, Task Force on Statewide Assessment

**FROM:** Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner

**CC:** Robert Awkward, Patricia Marshall

**DATE:** January 13, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Task Force for Statewide Assessment: Refocusing for the Future

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This memorandum is to acknowledge receipt of the "Task Force for Statewide Assessment: Refocusing the Future" document provided to me. This document summarizes the work of the Task Force beginning March 1, 2019 and continued at their October 8th meeting.

First, I wish to thank the members of the Task Force for their commitment to and active involvement with the continuing work of assessment. As we address equity issues for students across the Commonwealth, especially our most under served students, the work of assessment is an important tool to ensure we are delivering quality education to all students. As we discussed, the systemic assessment of teaching and learning plays an important role in improving our learning outcomes, closing achievement gaps, and increasing completion.

Second, I accept the recommendations and support the direction that the Task Force has suggested. Based on my read, the recommendations include meeting less frequently as a whole, but meeting more frequently in sub-committees focused on equity and assessment, faculty and assessment, and K to 12 and Early College; focusing more on the policy implications of statewide assessment work; changing the name of the Task Force to the Assessment Advisory Council; and for the new Assessment Advisory Council to make policy recommendations to Patricia A. Marshall, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs & Student Success.

On behalf of our public institutions of higher education, I wish to thank all members of the Task Force for their work to-date and for the continued work that will be generated from the Assessment Advisory Council going forward. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist in supporting this important work.

Attachment: Task Force for Statewide Assessment: Refocusing for the Future