

October 17, 2013

Richard D. Parsons, Chairman  
Governor Cuomo's New NY Education Reform Commission  
Providence Equity L.L.C.  
9 West 57th Street  
Suite 4700  
New York, NY 10019

Dear Chairman Parsons:

We are deeply concerned with the state's deficient implementation of the Common Core State Standards and the assessments that are tied to the new teacher evaluation system, an ill-conceived plan that has jeopardized the potential of the Common Core in New York. A mid-course correction is essential to address the widespread lack of confidence in how the standards have been rolled out and to move forward with our commitment to improve instructional practices and strengthen student learning. New York State must re-boot the system and provide the time and support schools and families need to make the standards a reality.

To get it right, NYSED led by Commissioner King, along with the Board of Regents, must start by taking the following steps:

- Continuously engage parents by informing them about the goals of the Common Core, listen to their concerns about their children's needs to realize the potential of Common Core State Standards, and share resources and strategies that families can use to support student learning to the new standards;
- Bring together educators to review the state's Common Core curriculum modules to ensure they are grade-level appropriate and aligned with classroom practice;
- Provide teachers with the tools, professional development, and resources to address the needs of diverse learners, including students with disabilities and English language learners;
- Provide teachers with the time for collaboration and respect their professional judgment to ensure that instructional materials are aligned to both the standards and students' needs;
- Provide transparency in the state assessment program by releasing all of the test questions to be a learning tool for educators, students, families, and the community so that there is an understanding of the tasks required and instruction can be directed to support areas of weakness;
- Postpone the implementation of the Common Core Regents exams as a graduation requirement; and
- Urge the Legislature to provide the funding needed to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to achieve the Common Core State Standards.

Since each of these corrections requires time for development and implementation, we strongly urge you to support legislation to create a three-year moratorium on the use of state assessments for high-stakes consequences for students and teachers. There are alternative measures of student learning and growth that can be adopted during this critical transition period. The moratorium is a necessity to ensure that students have the opportunity to succeed with college and career-ready standards in New York State.

We have sent the same letter to the NYS Board of Regents and Commissioner King requesting their support for the moratorium.

Sincerely,

**Richard C. Iannuzzi**  
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cc: Andrew Cuomo, Governor, New York State