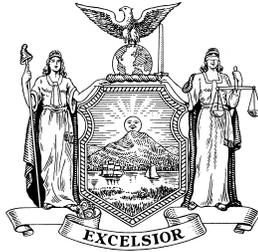


NEW YORK STATE

NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS
Assemblywoman, 64th District



JOSEPH BORELLI
Assemblyman, 62nd District

LEGISLATURE

November 19, 2013

Hon. John B. King, Jr.
Commissioner
New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234

Dear Commissioner King,

Recently, we joined a number of our Assembly Minority Conference colleagues in hosting a forum on Staten Island for parents, teachers and students to voice their thoughts and concerns on Common Core. This event shed light on a number of critical issues we feel should be considered as you travel the state holding similar events gathering input from the people who care the most about the future of New York's children.

The prevailing sentiment at our event was that the Common Core curriculum requires too much of students and teachers in too little time, leading to stress, confusion and other challenges that are actually hindering our ability to provide a world-class education to our children. The benefit of rigorous new testing standards and the pertinence of the tests' questioning are in serious doubt among both the parents of students charged with learning the curriculum and the teachers charged with implementing it. It has become extremely clear that the entire system must be carefully re-examined and that accommodations must be for parents, teachers and students while that process is underway.

At a recent event here on Staten Island, Governor Cuomo told reporters that the rollout of Common Core was "problematic," but that the issue must be handled by the state Education department. As you begin to host your own forums throughout the state, we urge you to include the concerns we have voiced in your deliberation of this issue and offer our full assistance in creating a more effective and beneficial education system for New York's students.

Sincerely,

Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Assembly

Joseph Borelli
Member of Assembly