



A Special Report on the



*from*

ASSEMBLYMAN

CLIFFORD W.  
**CROUCH**

We can do better for our children's education!



ASSEMBLYMAN

**CROUCH PROPOSES**

After hosting over a dozen public forums and hearing from thousands of concerned parents and education professionals from across the state...

Assemblyman Cliff Crouch and the Assembly Minority Conference have proposed the APPLE Plan to reform Common Core and education policy in New York State.

**Look inside for more details!**

# Arriving at the

## **We read your concerns...**

*"I am discouraged with what is happening in our schools. Common Core is not developmentally appropriate. Our children are not learning the skills that they need to become successful citizens of our global community."*

*"I think what they are teaching my 5 year old is a bit excessive. Let them be kids!"*



## **We hosted over a dozen open public forums, hearing from thousands of people from across the state...**

Akron; Baldwinsville; Binghamton; Brentwood; Corning; Lowville; New Hartford; Old Westbury; Rochester; Staten Island; Troy, Wappingers Falls; and Pine Bush.

"After listening to thousands of parents and educators and education professionals across the state, we are happy to present the APPLE PLAN as a way to improve education in New York."

## **We compiled your feedback with a report...**

*"When it comes to education, I've always said we need to make sure that we get it right,"*

"At the Educational Crossroads: A report on Education Reform Efforts in NYS," culminated from statewide forums and constituent feedback, highlights significant problems and offers potential solutions in six areas: Curriculum, Data Collection, Teacher Support, Funding, Student Anxiety, and Special Education. The report concludes with recommendations that aim to alleviate the pressure placed on school districts, lessen the anxiety of students, encourage collaboration between the state and local educators, protect the privacy of our children, and reduce the damage done by the hasty rollout of the Common Core Standards.

**Learn more about the APPLE Plan online at <http://www.appleplan.org>**

We recommend...

# The APPLE Plan

**(Achieving Pupil Preparedness & Launching Excellence):**

- 1 Evaluate State Assessments and Curriculum** – Prevent the State Education Department from requiring schools to use Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments until a comprehensive review of the Common Core Standards and PARCC is considered. Upon review of the state assessments and curriculum, the new standards would be phased in on a grade-by-grade level, starting in first grade;
- 2 Funding Equity** – Eliminate the GEA over three years. Provide state reimbursement for implementing teacher evaluations, Common Core, and PARCC. Provide reimbursement for school districts that expended resources to locally develop curriculum aligned to the Common Core Standards;
- 3 Teacher Preparedness** – Place a higher priority on providing professional development for instruction on the Common Core curriculum and the administration of the PARCC assessment;
- 4 Teacher Involvement** – Create an independent teacher panel to develop, review, and approve age/developmentally-appropriate curriculum and assessments based on Common Core guidelines. Give teachers access to test results to provide feedback to students;
- 5 Restrict the Use of Student Data** – Limit the disclosure of student information by a school district or private school to those directly under the control of the district. Require written parental consent or written consent of an eligible student (those who are 18) prior to any information being disclosed to a contractor, consultant, or other third party;
- 6 Equity for Special Education Students** – Require testing to be conducted at the level decided on by the IEP team. Convene a workgroup to analyze the Common Core Standards, develop methods for different instruction for special-needs students, and identify best practices;
- 7 21st Century Pathways** – Create alternate pathways to a high school diploma including a Career and Technical Education pathway. Increase state funding for BOCES, thereby making BOCES a resource for school districts rather than a financial burden. Encourage the incorporation of instruction in career and technical skills in the classrooms; and
- 8 Revamp the State Education Department** – Allow the Governor to appoint the Commissioner of Education. Require any changes by the Board of Regents that impose an unfunded mandate on schools to be approved by the State Legislature and Governor.

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Dear Friend,

Over the past year, my office has received a high volume of correspondence from parents, teachers and education professionals expressing concerns over the drastic changes occurring to our educational system.

Hearing stories of children telling their parents that they no longer want to go to school because they come home exhausted, upset, and stressed, or are not sleeping, raised many red flags to me. The implementation of the Common Core Standards has led New York State's education system to a critical crossroads and our children deserve better.

Noticing that something had to be done, my Assembly Minority Conference colleagues and I hosted over a dozen open public forums and heard from thousands of parents, teachers, and education professionals on issues ranging from Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR), Common Core Standards, state testing, data collection and how unfunded mandates take the focus off of educating our youth. I hosted one of these last June at Chenango Valley High School with a panel that included New York State Regent James Tallon; Chenango Valley School District Interim Superintendent David Gill; Dona Murray, a representative of the teachers; and Suzanne Sova, a representative from a local parent organization.

After compiling the information and feedback gathered from those forums, we are proud to present the APPLE Plan (Achieving Pupil Preparedness & Launching Excellence) to parents, education professionals, school board members and administrators. This plan addresses questions that were raised about policies affecting our children's education, and reforming education policy in New York State.

As a long-time advocate for providing quality and affordable education to all students, I hope you find our APPLE Plan recommendations helpful and informative.

As always, if you have any questions regarding the material in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.