

Super LAC

The Joint Legislative Affairs Committee of High Achieving Long Island Public School Districts

Garden City Public Schools
Manhasset Public Schools
North Shore Public Schools

February 1, 2017

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

The combined Legislative Affairs Committees of Garden City Public Schools, Manhasset Public Schools, and North Shore Public Schools, known as the Super LAC, would like to thank you for establishing a new leadership team at the State Education Department.

New York State Commissioner of Education Mary Ellen Elia met with our Super LAC group in June where she described her approach to leading New York public education forward. She clearly stated her intention to deeply involve educators and parents in the development of standards, assessments, curriculum frameworks, and rubrics for evaluating teachers and principals. She also articulated an understanding that the needs of public school districts differ based upon a number of factors and that no one solution or approach fits every school district.

As we have shared with you, the Board of Regents, the Senate and Assembly Education Committees and our local state representatives via our past letters, we believe a group of professional educators and parents are the right and best stakeholders to be empowered to develop an evaluation system that accurately and productively reflects teacher effectiveness, provides for accountability, and supports the development of students, teachers, principals and schools. We also believe that where it is working well, local control by school districts of curriculum and of teacher and principal evaluations should be the standard.

Taking Commissioner Elia at her word, we are encouraged that public education in New York will be set on a more effective and productive course. At our meeting with her, she expressed interest in continuing a dialogue with the Super LAC group about the specific needs of our districts and how to enhance the educational experiences of our children. It is our goal that with your support, the dialogue that began at this meeting will continue and will result in the implementation of many of the strategies and principles discussed with Commissioner Elia. We hope you will continue to support her leadership as she strives to address the concerns raised by parents throughout the state and to improve our public education system.

Sincerely,

Garden City Public Schools Board of Education

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- c: Commissioner Mary Ellen Elia
Senator Carl Marcellino, Chair, Committee on Education
Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Chair, Committee on Education