

Coalition for Multiple Pathways to a Diploma

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January 17, 2012

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

Re: Potential Revision of High School Graduation Requirements

Dear Commissioner King,

Over the past year, we have had conversations and exchanged correspondence with you, your staff and members of the Board of Regents to express our concern over the elimination of certain pathways to a local diploma and our desire to have New York create alternate or multiple pathways to graduation. We were encouraged by the interest in receiving specific recommendations for creating these pathways, and we have spent the last several months conducting preliminary research and discussing potential alternate pathways that, we believe, warrant further exploration. Enclosed please find the results of these deliberations and our preliminary recommendations for the creation of multiple pathways to a diploma in New York State.

We hope these recommendations provide a useful framework for future conversations about how we can provide all students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the workplace as well as college while supporting a diversity of learning styles and goals, and we look forward to discussing them with you. I will follow up with your staff to schedule a meeting, but, in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Gisela Alvarez

Cc: Chancellor Tisch
Vice Chancellor Cofield
Chancellor Emeritus Bennett
Regent Dawson
Regent Bottar
Regent Chapey
Regent Phillips
Regent Tallon
Regent Tilles
Regent Bendit
Regent Rosa

Regent Young
Regent Cea
Regent Norwood
Regent Jackson
Regent Cashin
Regent Cottrell
Deputy Commissioner Slentz
Deputy Commissioner Smith
Associate Commissioner Cort
Assistant Commissioner Schwartz

Advocates for Children of
New York

Alliance for Quality
Education

ARISE Coalition

Bronx Independent Living
Services

Brooklyn Young Mothers'
Collective

Campaign for Tomorrow's
Workforce

Council of Family and
Child Caring Agencies

Diana Mendez

Good Shepherd Services

Internationals Network for
Public Schools

Lawyers for Children

Learning Disabilities
Association of New York
State

Long Island Communities
of Practice

Mental Health Association
of New York City

Neighborhood Family
Services Coalition

New York Lawyers for the
Public Interest

New York Performance
Standards Consortium

New York State Coalition
of 853 Schools

New York State
Community of Practice on
Family, School and
Community Collaboration

New York State
Disabilities Advocacy
Association and Network

New York State
Rehabilitation Association