

**Thomas J. O'Brien, Superintendent of Roxbury Central School District,
Administrator, Board Member of the NYS Rural Schools Association,
Memeber of the NYS Safe Schools Task Force**

"The across the board, grade level roll-out of the CCLS was a big mistake and goes against all we know about curriculum implementation. This massive shift should have been phased in methodically to enable districts to adjust and acclimate all stakeholders. The present situation needs a time-out and the linking of the CCLS and APPR added fuel to the fire; with this all happening in the wake of a serious recession and poorly funded Federal support.

As I have said too many people, including to the Board of Regents in September 2015, Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs has been forgotten, social/emotional development in our learning environment has been left to the wayside even though it is suppose to be part of the core. Our society is facing insurmountable challenges in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, family erosion and poverty. If NYS wishes to be truly serious about improving achievement that must follow Maslow's domains as a basic philosophical concept, a concept we all learned as first year education majors in college.

NYS standards should be based in GRIT skills and teaching students on how to be inquisitive versus acquisitive. I believe that was the intent of the CCLS but not through the accountability/educational paradigm that presently exists. We in small rural schools know our students and community and this one size fits all approach has hurt the high quality educational experience we have fervently protected and cultivated through the love and dedication we all have for our schools."