

**Susan A. Schnebel, Administrator, Islip Union Free School District**

"The Suffolk County School Superintendents Association appreciates the Governor's, as well as the Commissioner's, desire to reach out to all stakeholders regarding the Common Core Standards, assessments, and principal/teacher evaluations, respectively. However, these issues cannot be addressed along with potential solutions in a public forum or within in a limit of 500 words or 3 MB.

Simply, the outcome of the Task Force shouldn't be THE changes, but the PLAN to make thoughtful and strategic changes to the standards, assessments, curriculum and evaluations in an effective way. The Governor can be bold and take the recommendations in what needs to be fixed and establish a plan to do so with invested stakeholders and leaders (superintendents) at the same time.

SCSSA has put together a comprehensive document which I would like to share with the Commission as we have with our local legislators. One piece not included as of the date of the publication is a moratorium on the use of assessments as it is clear that the Governor and Commissioner of Education have, by the nature of their open dialogue with stakeholders, voiced similar concerns regarding the developmental appropriateness of the standards and their alignment with poorly constructed assessments for grades 3-8 which over the past year have proven to have no validity or reliability as to student learning.

Superintendents are the last oasis of reasonableness and a voice that places public education and the students that it serves first. It is time we work together to diffuse the anger, stop the pushback and rebuild the trust. Public education is the backbone of this country and the great equalizer. I urge the Task Force to review our legislative priorities for the 2015-16 school year and look forward to working with them."