

**James Viola, , School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS)**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I will respond to each of the six charges set by Governor Cuomo for the Task Force. First, SAANYS supports the continued implementation of the Common Core Standards, though we recognize that some revisions of the standards are needed. The survey issued by SED should be used to collect recommended standard-specific changes, that should be considered by grade level and/or content level focus groups for the development of final recommendations. Second, the unavailability of some modules and the manner of rolling-out available modules and instructional materials was problematic. SED must be provided the fiscal and personnel capacity to continue to develop and to revise such materials and to provide necessary professional development to teachers and school administrators. Third, educational standards and assessments must be in sync; otherwise, there will be an instruction-assessment disconnect. SED has established advisory groups to recommend improvements related to the Grade 3-8 assessment and Regents exams. The work of these groups must be transparent and the accruing recommendations should be implemented. Fourth, concerns regarding the validity and reliability of student performance on common core-aligned tests and the uncertainty associated with the transition to Questar tests support the continuation of the moratorium. Moreover, if such tests are inappropriate for students, they are equally inappropriate to evaluate teachers and principals. In fact, using such tests for the evaluation of teachers and principals is all the more inappropriate in light of the "black box" method used by SED to develop growth scores. Fifth, excessive testing and students opting-out were not issues before SED implemented the APPR system. To reduce testing, SAANYS recommends that SED review all APPR procedures (e.g., student learning objectives) to identify opportunities to streamline such requirements. SAANYS also recommends that SED and all New Yorkers support Congressman Chris Gibson's Bill (HR-4172) that would discontinue the requirement to test every student every year in grades 3 to 8. Sixth, SED and the Division of Budget should be responsible to ensure that test vendors are competent and professional. In doing so, there should be open and frequent communication with teachers and school administrators. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. Sincerely, James Viola