



Hicksville Public Schools

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Maureen K. Bright
Superintendent of Schools

January 7, 2014

John O'Brien
District Clerk

Honorable Jack M. Martins
District Office
151 Herricks Road, Suite 202
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

Dear Senator Martins,

State Senator John J. Flanagan, chairman of the Senate Education Committee, recently issued a report entitled "The Regents Reform Agenda: Assessing Our Progress." The report, issued on December 12, 2013, which was based on hearings throughout the State, focused on three general topics: the implementation of Common Core, excessive and unnecessary amount of testing, and student privacy. The report includes a list of recommended action items to the NYSED and to the State Legislature.

The Hicksville Board of Education fully supports establishing rigorous academic standards for all our students to ensure that they become informed citizens and that they are properly prepared for college and/or the 21st century economy. However, if academic standards are to be raised to achieve the goals of improved student achievement and academic success, we must return the conversation to a tone that builds trust among regulators, educators and parents and recognizes the diverse needs of students. The Board therefore believes that it is in the best interest of the students of Hicksville to slow down and modify the implementation of the Common Core, reduce testing and help protect student privacy.

The Board requests that you fully support Senator Flanagan's action plan, including the action list for State Education Department and the action list for the state Legislature. The Hicksville BOE will continue to study the issues surrounding the implementation of Common Core and will submit further recommendations as appropriate.

Respectfully,

Phil Heckler
President
Hicksville Board of Education

Board of Education

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