



SENIOR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION – P-16
Office of Elementary, Middle, Secondary and Continuing Education
Office of Higher Education

April 2008

TO: District Superintendents of Schools
Superintendents of Public Schools
Teacher Center Directors
Teacher Organizations
Deans of Institutions of Higher Education
Parent Organizations
Interested Parties

FROM: Johanna Duncan-Poitier

SUBJECT: Public Forums on the New York Learning Standards

The Board of Regents ***P-16 Education: A Plan for Action*** calls for all New Yorkers to be prepared for “citizenship, work and continued learning throughout their lives.” In order to achieve this goal we must close the gaps in student academic achievement along the lines of income, race and ethnicity, language and disability; and keep up with the growing demands for still more knowledge and skill in the face of increasing competition in a changing economy. A key strategy to address these two challenges is the periodic review of the New York Learning Standards, starting with English language arts.

As part of the Standards review process, a series of public forums will be convened in April and May throughout the State in order to provide the Regents and the Department a representative sampling of stakeholder views. In particular, we encourage teachers and school administrators, school board members, and other groups to participate, including parents and higher education representatives. Following is the schedule of forums:

Date	Location	Time
April 24, 2008	Erie One BOCES Education Campus Conference Room B -1 355 Harlem Road West Seneca Pre-registration: Geri Hoffman (tele: 716-821-7161/ e-mail: ghoffman@e1b.org)	2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

May 7, 2008	<p>Western Suffolk BOCES Conference Center 31 Lee Avenue Wheatley Heights</p> <p>Pre-registration: Joan Johnson (tele: 631-549-4900/ e-mail: jjohnson@wsboces.org)</p>	2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
May 8, 2008	<p>United Federation of Teachers Headquarters 52 Broadway, 5th Floor New York City</p> <p>Pre-registration: Jerrill Adams (tele: 718-722-2784/ jadams@mail.nysed.gov)</p>	1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
May 9, 2008	<p>Adirondack Community College Gymnasium* 640 Bay Road Queensbury</p> <p>Pre-registration: Janice Keller (tele: 518-746-3310/ e-mail: jkeller@wswheboces.org)</p>	12:00 – 3:00 p.m.**
May 13, 2008	<p>Nottingham High School, Cafeteria 3100 E. Genesee St. Syracuse</p> <p>Pre-registration: Kathy Southwell (tele: 315-433-2602/ e-mail: ksouthwe@ocmboces.org)</p>	3:00 – 5:30 p.m.
May 21, 2008	<p>Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES School Services Building, West Conference Room 200 BOCES Drive Yorktown Heights</p> <p>Pre-registration: Marla Gardner (tele: 914-248-2330/ e-mail: mgardner@pnwboces.org)</p>	2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

* The Gymnasium is the first building on the right on entering the campus' south entrance on Bay Road. Parking is immediately to the right after the Gymnasium.

** Participants are invited to bring lunch, if they so wish. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Each forum will include some introductory remarks on the Standards initiative with the bulk of the session devoted to small group discussions focusing on a few key issues related to the Standards review. Since the purpose of these forums is to get input from the field, participant comments will be recorded and shared with the Regents.

To ensure that the proper arrangements are made, I ask that you contact the person indicated above for the forum in which you wish to attend to pre-register. However, pre-registration is not required.

I strongly urge you to participate in one of the forums to present your views on this critical issue.