

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** December 10, 2015

**CONTACT:** Robert Lowry • 518/449-1063 or 518/435-5996 (cell)  
E-mail: [boblowry@nyscoss.org](mailto:boblowry@nyscoss.org)

## **Statement of NYS Council of School Superintendents on Governor Cuomo's Common Core Task Force Report**

ALBANY – Governor Cuomo's Common Core Task Force report makes thoughtful recommendations to improve our state's education standards and assessments and begin to dispel the discord that has been hurting teaching and learning in too many schools.

The report's recommendations align with the findings of our recent survey of school district superintendents: Challenging academic standards are essential, but there are opportunities to improve upon the Common Core. State assessments should consume less school time and deliver more value for instruction, by getting more information back to schools and families faster. There must be more transparency in the development of our standards and assessments, and more involvement by New York educators. The needs of children with disabilities and for whom English is not their first language must be sensibly accommodated.

We are encouraged that the report acknowledges how the last wave of reforms was damaged by thrusting too many major initiatives too fast upon our schools, and all at one time. That recognition is essential as we move now to make corrections to those reforms.

There is wide consensus that controversy in our schools will not diminish without some action on the role of state assessments in professional evaluations. While our standards and assessments are undergoing review and revision, it makes sense to remove any risk of adverse consequences for educators and students, as the Task Force recommends.

The Task Force members, including Valley Stream Superintendent Constance Evelyn, worked hard to reach consensus on a collection of carefully constructed recommendations. We are grateful for their service on behalf of New York's schoolchildren.

Robert J. Reidy, Jr.  
Executive Director  
New York State Council of School Superintendents

*The New York State Council of School Superintendents is a professional and advocacy organization with over a century of service to school superintendents and assistant superintendents in New York State. The Council provides more than 800 members with professional development opportunities, publications and personal support while advocating for public education and the superintendency.*