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Statement of NYS Council of School Superintendents on Regents Action to Cut Time for State Tests

“We thank the Board of Regents and State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia for listening to superintendents, other educators, and families by acting to cut the number of days students in grades three through eight must sit for the annual state assessments in English language arts and mathematics.

“For years, the Council of School Superintendents has advocated shortening testing time as one essential step towards reassuring families and educators that state assessments can produce value for teaching and learning.

“Today the Regents also discussed the various uses of the state assessments. This is a crucial conversation. We believe the current tests have been asked to fulfill too many purposes and cannot serve all of them well. For our members, a unique value of the state assessments has been for program evaluation, measuring how well local instruction matches with state standards.

“This is a time of transition for state testing. As we move to replace the Common Core with the new Next Generation Standards, state assessments will need to change as well. We should be using this time to get clear on the priorities we have for how state tests can best contribute to teaching and learning, and to assure the next iteration of those tests can effectively promote our goals.”

Charles S. Dedrick, Executive Director
New York State Council of School Superintendents

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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.