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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 2, 2019  
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## **New York State Council of School Superintendents: Problems with State’s Computer-Based Testing Are Unacceptable**

**ALBANY** – The New York State Council of School Superintendents today released the following statement regarding problems with the state’s grades three through eight English language arts assessments:

“Today it is being reported that students across the state are experiencing extended delays in attempting to participate in computer-based versions of the state’s grades three through eight English language arts assessments. Some students have not been able to login at all and some have lost work, requiring them to start over. Similar problems were reported a year ago.

“We have been supporters of moving to computer-based testing and eventually to adaptive testing. Done right, adaptive testing holds the promise of reducing testing time for students and providing better and faster results for families, teachers, and schools from these tests required by federal law. With adaptive testing, which many districts already use for diagnostic purposes, ensuing questions vary in difficulty based on student success in answering earlier questions.

“But the problems schools have encountered this year and last lead us to doubt that the state’s current testing vendor, Questar Assessment, can ever produce acceptable results.

“We urge the State Education Department to immediately reevaluate its contractual relationship with Questar Assessment and undertake an aggressive review of the errors which have occurred during administration of this year’s assessments so that our students are never again subjected to such unacceptable experiences.”

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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.*