



May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

New York State PTA  
One Wembley Court  
Albany, NY 12205

Dear Ms. Russell,

I am writing to thank you and the New York State PTA for partnering with the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to select parents who will serve on the New York State Learning Standards Review Committees this summer.

Parents are an essential voice in education as they work hand-in-hand with their children and their children's teachers. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that after an open application process for New York State parents, we have selected 16 moms and dads to participate in the review of the English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards. These parents will work closely with the educator committees who will review the New York State P-12 Learning Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics.

With the help of the NYS PTA and your partner organizations, the NYSED received over 300 parent applicants from across the State representing diverse students and communities, making the selection process very difficult. The NYS PTA played a crucial role in the review of the applications to ensure that the parents who were selected currently have a child in P-12 schools, are dedicated to improving learning standards for students, and represent New York State's rich diversity. The parents selected live in urban, suburban, and rural communities and are committed to working on behalf of their own children and the children of New York State.

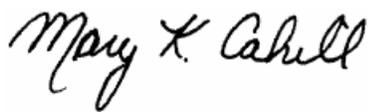
In addition to the assistance of the NYS PTA, we thank the following groups who helped to promote the open call for parents:

- Alliance for Quality Education
- CEC for D23
- NYC Parent Coordinating Council
- NYCC
- UFT Parent Outreach
- Make the Road NY
- CEC 6

- Abyssinian Development Corp
- CEC 17
- Advocates for Children
- NYC DOE FACE
- Mothers on the Move
- NYS Parent Power
- Student First NY
- Educators for Excellence
- NYS Family Engagement Coalition
- NYS Allies for Public Education

We appreciate the interest that so many parents have in this important work and look forward to this collaboration. The Department will keep the NYS PTA updated on the standards review process and any other opportunities for review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary K. Cahill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "M" and "C".

Mary Cahill