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NYSPTA Board of Managers Advocacy Team
www.nyspta.org
September, 2005

New York State Board of Regents members
Regents Office
Room 110 EB
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234
518-474-5889
Attention: Chancellor Bennett &
Vice Chancellor Sanford

TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS:

The NYSPTA adopted our resolution on **preventative health programs** in 1982 and has continuously renewed the position of screening all students in well child care including age appropriate immunizations, nutritional screening, dental care, hearing screenings, amblyopic screening for preschoolers, scoliosis and blood pressure, lead poisoning screening and tuberculin skin tests, and other health screenings as part of New York State policy and mandates.

The NYSPTA agrees and urges the members of the Board of Regents to adopt the amendment of sections 136.1, 136.2 and 136.3, which implements and otherwise conforms the Commissioner's Regulations to Chapter 477 of the Laws of 2004, but we would also like to recommend that a **mandated screening of all children be included concerning the important health issue of lead poisoning. We believe that the language of the amendment should be similar to the required mandate for sickle cell anemia, which is when it has been indicated by the health provider. The child should then be required to have the screening and if necessary, and the proper treatment should be provided.**

It is very important that **all children are healthy** so that they can be at their best physically, mentally, and emotionally to achieve academically and be successful in school. We agree that by extending the period of time in which students may obtain the exams and the health certificates this allows more flexibility for the pediatricians and parents to provide the best medical and health care practice. The screening section of the amendment should include all of the necessary and required screenings by law to help students be physically able to be in school with other children. This includes the required health certificates, vision screening, hearing screening, dental screening, immunization requirements, screening of scoliosis, the sickle cell anemia test (when necessary) and the screening of lead poisoning when indicated by the physician.

The NYSPTA agrees that the proposed amendments should be for all schools across the state and that the exemptions for New York City, Buffalo and Rochester should *be* amended to include this health requirement. We would like to have this added to the overall amendment and become effective on September 29, 2005.

We thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

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