

Take Action NOW!

This is our moment to save our profession and protect public education.
Here's what we all need to do:

First: Write a letter or use the sample below. Make copies for the governor, your state senator, and your assemblyperson. Give these letters to your building rep. The HPTA will provide envelopes and postage.

Next: Copy and paste your letter into an email to send to the NYS Board of Regents (RegentsOffice@nysed.gov). You can also send it as an email to your lawmakers. They cannot hear the same message too many times!



NYSUT's Member Action Center

It has all of the resources for you to take action now! Go to <https://mac.nysut.org/>. Simply scroll through the images to sign a petition or find your state senator's phone number.

Take 10 seconds and sign up for **MAC text alerts** on your phone! Text "nysut" to number 38470. You will receive **Take Action Tuesday** texts; just click the link to make your voice heard.

Dear Title/Name,

I am writing as a concerned constituent, parent, and public school teacher. As you know, Gov. Cuomo pushed for the rushed implementation of the new Common Core Standards, including testing students on the new standards before teachers were given a curriculum or support for teaching the new standards, and it has been a widely-acknowledged disaster for the children of NYS. The governor has unfairly blamed teachers for students' low scores, even though cut scores were determined *after* tests were completed. Moreover, the governor wants to double the weighting of those same Common Core tests in teacher evaluations. There is no data that supports high stakes testing as the primary component of teacher evaluation. The added emphasis on testing will mean a narrowing of educational focus, and will wrongly hold teachers accountable for factors that are beyond their control. Educational researchers across the country decry this "reform."

Contrary to the governor's overheated rhetoric, public schools are not a monopoly to be broken. Public education is the centerpiece of our democracy and the gateway to opportunity and success for all of New York's students. Locally elected school boards that are directly accountable to voters *democratically* govern our schools. Proposals by the governor and chancellor attempt to centralize power over public education in Albany and strip away local control of education from administrators, teachers, parents, and school boards. I'm sure you agree that professional educators along with administrators are the most qualified individuals to determine what is the best practice and curriculum for their students. These important decisions should not be driven by a corporation (Pearson—quickly becoming a true education monopoly) whose sole interest is financial profit. Do not let the governor hold our children's education hostage. Do not pass the education "reform" bill. Please stand up for fully and fairly-funded public education. Thank you.

JUST A CLICK!

This information, including the sample letter to cut and paste, is available on the HPTA website. Simply click on the links to access NYSUT MAC, or click the "Links" tab on top, find your state representatives, and click on the links to their pages for contact info.

Not sure who your elected officials are? Go to the page on NYSUT MAC site and simply enter your zip code.
<https://mac.nysut.org/find-my-elected-officials>.