



NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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TO: Long Island's NYS Senate and Assembly Delegation  
FROM: Mary Jo O'Hagan, President  
Mark Masin, Legislation Committee Chair  
RE: 7303-A (Nolan)

Few questions remain as to **WHAT** the unfolding consequences have been in the aftermath of New York State's hastily contrived 2010 Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) and its subsequent stream of annual revisions, amendments and reinterpretations.

However, questions do abound as to **WHY** New York State lawmakers chose to compound the disruptions to teaching and learning by passing, with no public discourse, their latest APPR mandates.

At the same time coupling of school aid with new APPR mandates were used as bargaining chips in the late-night finalization of this year's state budget, Long Island school districts were experiencing the onset of a what became a firestorm of "opt-outs" that can only be surmised as open rebellion against these very measures.

From the onset, locally elected boards of education have been denied input into the teacher/principal evaluations devised by politicians far removed from our classrooms and communities. With little but sound bites emanating from Albany, it has been left to us to explain the unexplainable to parents, staff and communities. And, once again, at the risk of forfeiting state aid due our schools and/or being removed from office, we are being forced to defend the indefensible.

These most recent changes to APPR are unsound and should not be implemented as enacted.

Inexplicably, one provision even seeks to undermine what is arguably the sole successful practice that has emerged from the original legislation. Classroom observation protocols instituted through APPR have provided notable results and have received praise from across the education spectrum...boards of education, superintendents, principals and teacher unions. What is the purpose of casting these measures aside and substituting a costly, unwieldy and unnecessary system of mandated "independent evaluators"?

**Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association supports A.7303-A (Nolan), thus far the solitary legislative acknowledgment of the need for the Legislature's reconsideration of what it has wrought.**

cc: New York State Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan  
New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie

New York State Senate Education Committee Chair Carl Marcellino  
New York State Assembly Education Committee Chair Catherine Nolan  
Meryl H. Tisch, Chancellor, New York State Board of Regents  
Dr. Elizabeth Berlin, Acting New York State Commissioner of Education  
Mary Ellen Elia, Incoming New York State Commissioner of Education  
Roger Tilles, Member, New York State Board of Regents  
New York State School Boards Association  
Nassau County Council of School Superintendents  
Suffolk County School Superintendents Association  
Nassau Region PTA  
Suffolk Region PTA  
Long Island Education Coalition