

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**  
**SENATOR, 63<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT**

**RANKING MINORITY MEMBER**  
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AND SMALL BUSINESS  
INFRASTRUCTURE & CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

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ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
FINANCE  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
INSURANCE  
TRANSPORTATION

October 15, 2013

Dr. John B. King, Jr.  
New York State Education Department, Commissioner  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12234

Dear Commissioner King:

I write to encourage you to reverse your decision to cancel the previously-planned series of public forums throughout the state focusing on the new Common Core standards. I hope you will once again agree to come to Western New York and other areas throughout the state to discuss the changes being implemented to our education system statewide and to hear the concerns and comments of local parents and families as they deal with these and other local educational issues. I believe it would be enormously beneficial for local parents to be able to discuss these issues with you in person.

I know that the problems facing our local schools, especially the Buffalo Public Schools, are not lost upon you. These are problems that you, and local families, deal with, and worry about, every single day. Many of our Buffalo Public Schools have been labeled as Persistently Low Achieving schools, including two of our high schools: East and Lafayette High Schools. While these are certainly issues that the public has brought up with both the Buffalo School Board and my office, it is also important that these concerns are brought up with you, our state's senior-most education official.

In addition to all of this, the state's continued implementation of the Common Core system has left many parents confused and concerned about their children's education. It is my hope that further input by parents and community members will help to improve and ease this transition process. The Common Core system is a drastic change from the education system that many parents are familiar with. Hearing an explanation of it from their Education Commissioner would allow them to gain a greater understanding of what their children are learning.

Again, I believe that a meeting with parents and families in Western New York would be advantageous for all parties. It will give you an even greater understanding of the problems facing local schools, and it will arm parents with the knowledge they need to make decisions about their children's education. I hope you will take this into account and reverse your decision to cancel your visit to Western New York. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward

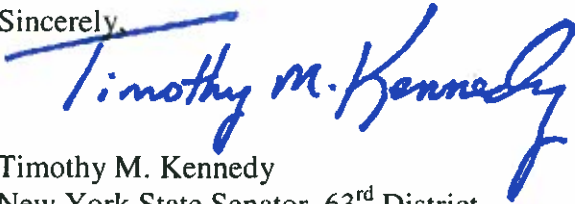
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to hearing from you. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me in my district office at 716.826.2683.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy M. Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "T" and "K".

Timothy M. Kennedy  
New York State Senator, 63<sup>rd</sup> District