



March 17, 2016

MaryEllen Elia
New York State Commissioner of Education
State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Commissioner Elia:

It is our understanding that the contract for the current high school equivalency exam called the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) will expire on December 31, 2016. In conversations with the State Education Department, we have been told that the appropriate time to expand the languages offered in the high school equivalency exam would be during contract negotiations. We write to request that New York's high school equivalency exam be offered in Chinese and Korean.

As you know, the Chinese and Korean language population continues to grow around New York State, and particularly in New York City. According to the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health, NYC's Asian American population grew by 110% from 1990 to 2010 and represents more than 13% of the total NYC population. The current high school equivalency exam is offered in Spanish. This reflects the idea that individuals should be given the opportunity to show their proficiency on the high school equivalency exam without being penalized for potentially limited proficiency in English. Because of the growth of the Asian American population in New York, it also makes sense to offer the exam in Chinese and Korean.

We request that, whether renewing the contract or procuring a new high school equivalency exam, a stipulation of that contract must be to require the exam be offered in Chinese and Korean.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Daniel Squadron in black ink.

Daniel Squadron
New York State Senator

Handwritten signature of Nily Rozic in black ink.

Nily Rozic
New York State Assemblywoman