



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Squadron".

Daniel Squadron  
New York State Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nily Rozic".

Nily Rozic  
New York State Assemblywoman



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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President of the University of the State of New York  
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March 29, 2016

Hon. Daniel L. Squadron  
New York State Senate  
Legislative Office Building, Room 515  
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Nily Rozic  
New York State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building, Room 510  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Senator Squadron and Assemblymember Rozic:

Thank you for your letter regarding the High School Equivalency (HSE) test.

New York State does not create its own HSE test. Instead, we issue a RFP to select a vendor who produces a HSE test that is used nationwide. All three vendors who currently produce a HSE test provide the test in both English and Spanish only. However, we are planning to include language which would welcome HSE editions in languages other than English and Spanish in our next RFP to better serve New York State testers who speak other languages.

Sincerely,

MaryEllen Elia  
Commissioner

c: Kevin Smith