



New York State Science Education Consortium A Cooperative Association of Professional Science Education Organizations

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

September 15, 2018

Dear Commissioner Elia,

The New York State Science Education Consortium, which represents our State's science education professional organizations, has worked closely with the State Education Department for many years with a diversity of issues- all in service of supporting and improving science education for the children on New York State.

We applaud the actions of the Department over the past several years to adapt the Next Generation Science Standards and adopt the NYS P-12 Science Learning Standards. These powerful new standards can truly engage students in the scientific endeavor and allow them to develop a deep understanding of science practices and content and create a more scientifically literate citizenry.

Realistically, the transition to these new standards, asking P-12 teachers to manage inquiry science classrooms and provide true "3-dimensional" learning, presents significant challenges to the classroom teacher. Science teachers will need to shift from content-driven instruction to teaching students how to use inquiry and background knowledge in developing explanations of science phenomena and solving real-world problems. To effect this shift, teachers will need to learn and apply new teaching strategies and tools to support student success. Yet our teachers and schools are being directed to undertake this major transition without significant statewide support or resources. The Consortium is concerned that the SED's ambitious and worthy goals will not be fully reached across New York State.

In order to achieve a strong, consistent and truly successful implementation of these standards, and so provide our children with a better and impactful science education they will need in the 21st century, the Consortium feels that the State Education Department should provide the necessary training through a statewide network of professional development. Teachers across the state should have access to high-quality, consistent professional development and support.

Attached please find our proposal for creating such a network.

We have spoken with Regent Tilles who has expressed his support for this effort and advised us that now is the time to move forward with this funding proposal. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your representatives to discuss this proposal and work together to refine it with the goal of making this Professional Development Network part of the SED legislative budget.

We understand and appreciate that time is of the essence and look forward to your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Doug Schmid, Sandra George, Keith Bogert, John Cunningham

Funding Committee
New York State Science Education Consortium



New York State Science Education Consortium A Cooperative Association of Professional Science Education Organizations

Chancellor Betty A. Rosa
Regents Office - State Education Building
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, N.Y. 12234

September 15, 2018

Dear Chancellor Rosa,

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Doug Schmid, Sandra George, Keith Bogert, John Cunningham

Funding Committee
New York State Science Education Consortium



New York State Science Education Consortium
A Cooperative Association of Professional Science Education Organizations

Vice Chancellor T. Andrew Brown
925 Crossroads Building
Two State Street, Rochester, NY 14614

September 15, 2018

Dear Vice Chancellor Brown,

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Doug Schmid, Sandra George, Keith Bogert, John Cunningham

Funding Committee
New York State Science Education Consortium



New York State Science Education Consortium
A Cooperative Association of Professional Science Education Organizations

Regent Roger Tilles
Lorber Hall Room 211
Long Island University Post
720 Northern Boulevard, Brookville, NY 11548

September 15, 2018

Dear Regent Tilles,

The New York State Science Education Consortium, which represents our State's science education professional organizations, has worked closely with the State Education Department for many years with a diversity of issues- all in service of supporting and improving science education for the children on New York State.

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New York State Science Education Consortium



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A Cooperative Association of Professional Science Education Organizations

Regent Lester W. Young Jr.
55 Hanson Place, Suite 400
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217

September 15, 2018

Dear Regent Young,

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New York State Science Education Consortium



New York State Science Education Consortium
A Cooperative Association of Professional Science Education Organizations

Regent Christine D. Cea
1050 Forest Hill Road
Staten Island, NY 10314

September 15, 2018

Dear Regent Cea,

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Funding Committee
New York State Science Education Consortium



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A Cooperative Association of Professional Science Education Organizations

Regent Wade S. Norwood
74 Appleton Street
Rochester, NY 14611

September 15, 2018

Dear Regent Norwood,

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Funding Committee
New York State Science Education Consortium



New York State Science Education Consortium A Cooperative Association of Professional Science Education Organizations

Regent Kathleen M. Cashin
Regents Office - State Education Building
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234

September 15, 2018

Dear Regent Cashin,

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New York State Science Education Consortium A Cooperative Association of Professional Science Education Organizations

Regent James E. Cottrell
SUNY Downstate Medical Center
450 Clarkson Avenue - Box 6
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11203-2098

September 15, 2018

Dear Regent Cottrell,

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New York State Science Education Consortium A Cooperative Association of Professional Science Education Organizations

Regent Josephine Victoria Finn
Regents Office - State Education Building
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234

September 15, 2018

Dear Regent Finn,

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Regent Judith Chin
Regents Office - State Education Building
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234

September 15, 2018

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New York State Science Education Consortium
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Regent Beverly L. Ouder Kirk
303 Main Street
Morristown, NY 13664

September 15, 2018

Dear Regent Ouder Kirk,

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Regent Catherine Collins
508 Main Street
Buffalo, NY, 14202

September 15, 2018

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New York State Science Education Consortium A Cooperative Association of Professional Science Education Organizations

Regent Judith Johnson
Regents Office - State Education Building
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY, 12234

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Regent Nan Eileen Mead
116 West 32nd Street - 6th Floor
New York, NY 10001

September 15, 2018

Dear Regent Mead,

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Regent Elizabeth S. Hakanson
Regents Office - State Education Building
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, N.Y. 12234

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Regents Office - State Education Building
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, N.Y. 12234

September 15, 2018

Dear Regent Reyes,

The New York State Science Education Consortium, which represents our State's science education professional organizations, has worked closely with the State Education Department for many years with a diversity of issues- all in service of supporting and improving science education for the children on New York State.

We applaud the actions of the Department over the past several years to adapt the Next Generation Science Standards and adopt the NYS P-12 Science Learning Standards. These powerful new standards can truly engage students in the scientific endeavor and allow them to develop a deep understanding of science practices and content and create a more scientifically literate citizenry.

Realistically, the transition to these new standards, asking P-12 teachers to manage inquiry science classrooms and provide true "3-dimensional" learning, presents significant challenges to the classroom teacher. Science teachers will need to shift from content-driven instruction to teaching students how to use inquiry and background knowledge in developing explanations of science phenomena and solving real-world problems. To effect this shift, teachers will need to learn and apply new teaching strategies and tools to support student success. Yet our teachers and schools are being directed to undertake this major transition without significant statewide support or resources. The Consortium is concerned that the SED's ambitious and worthy goals will not be fully reached across New York State.

In order to achieve a strong, consistent and truly successful implementation of these standards, and so provide our children with a better and impactful science education they will need in the 21st century, the Consortium feels that the State Education Department should provide the necessary training through a statewide network of professional development. Teachers across the state should have access to high-quality, consistent professional development and support.

Attached please find our proposal for creating such a network.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this proposal and work together to refine it with the goal of making this Professional Development Network part of the SED legislative budget.

We understand and appreciate that time is of the essence and look forward to your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Doug Schmid, Sandra George, Keith Bogert, John Cunningham

Funding Committee
New York State Science Education Consortium



New York State Science Education Consortium
A Cooperative Association of Professional Science Education Organizations

Regent Susan W. Mittler
Regents Office - State Education Building
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY, 12234

September 15, 2018

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