



## SPECIAL EDUCATION TASKFORCE "THINK TANK"

### NYSED's Pending Proposal to Change Testing Levels for Students with Disabilities

The Think Tank is an opportunity for advocates, school personnel and parents to discuss pending changes to the law or policies and other issues that our children face in special education. This meeting will focus on an **important proposal** being considered by the Board of Regents in the near future that could have a **very significant impact** on many students with disabilities. In short, the proposal would allow school districts to test certain students with disabilities at a lower grade level than their peers. This is a fairly controversial issue; some people believe this will help students while others believe it permits schools to apply and accept lower expectations for students with disabilities compared to their peers. Although the proposal is unclear on the issue, it appears this would impact students with disabilities in general education who have "significant cognitive delays" but who are not so severely delayed that they are alternately assessed. In addition, the information available on this issue is vague at best and therefore most people are unaware of the issue or its implications. This Think Tank will provide an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the issue, brainstorm, and ultimately decide for yourself.

NYSED and the Board of Regents have provided a very small window to submit public comment. **The comment period is January 16 through January 24, 2014, so time is of the essence!** The session will be facilitated by Steve Oil; Julie Keegan Esq. will provide a brief history and overview of the proposal, followed by group discussion. Discussion points will be shared on the Task Force website.

**DATE:** Wednesday January 22, 2014 **Time:** 9:15a.m.-11:00a.m.

**Place:**        Colonie Town Library

William K. Sanford Town Library  
629 Albany Shaker Road  
Loudonville NY 12211

**RSVP:** Steve Oill, [oills@parsonscenter.org](mailto:oills@parsonscenter.org) or (518) 265-5892

**Directions:** The library is located off exit 4 of the Adirondack Northway (I-87) at 629 Albany-Shaker Road. Coming from the **SOUTH** take Exit 4 and turn left at the ramp onto Wolf Road at the next light take a right onto Albany Shaker Road. The library is the second building on the left on the corner of Maxwell Road and Albany Shaker Road but you will need to go around the rotary to enter as there is no left turn allowed. Coming from the **NORTH** take exit 4, where the road splits bear right. At the light at the end of the ramp turn left onto Rt. 155. At the next light turn left onto Albany Shaker Road. Go through the next light and around the rotary and the library is on the right on the corner of Maxwell and Albany Shaker Road.

CANCELATION DUE TO WEATHER - Notification of cancelation will be posted on our listserv via email and on our website at [www.nyspecialtaskforce.org](http://www.nyspecialtaskforce.org). If you have not signed up for our listserv please go to our website.