



NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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LORRAINE DELLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**THIS LETTER WAS ALSO ADDRESS TO:
COMMISSIONER STEINER AND CHANCELLOR TISCH**

April 16, 2010

The Honorable Roger Tilles
Board of Regents
New York State Education Department
100 Crossways Park West ó Suite 107
Woodbury, N.Y. 11797

Dear Regent Tilles:

On April 19th the Board of Regents will be asked to give conceptual approval to a series of special education cost containment initiatives which State Education Department staff has proposed for consideration.

On behalf of its 112 member boards of education, Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association urges your support of these recommendations.

Special education is one of the largest and fastest growing portions of school district budgets on Long Island. The inability to control these mandated costs has frustrated both school boards and local taxpayers. Threats of significant cuts in state aid and continuing pressures to hold down school property tax increases are causing great tension among competing budget priorities.

We understand that the recommendations come as the result of careful and lengthy deliberation. We are assured that the recommended changes would not impair the services received by students with disabilities. Nor would they reduce our districts' long-held commitment to provide the best educational opportunities for these students to ensure that they succeed in life beyond school. On the other hand, some of the budget choices now being contemplated by our boards would hurt services for both special and general education students.

Sincerely,

Jay L.T. Breakstone, President

James S. March, Legislation Committee Chair