

LDA

Learning Disabilities Association of New York State, Inc.

**1190 Troy-Schenectady
Road
Latham, NY 12110
518/608-8992
Fax: 518/608-8993
statelda@ldanys.org
www.ldanys.org**

LDA Regional Affiliates:

**LDA of the Capital District
(aka Wildwood Programs)
2995 Curry Road Extension
Schenectady, NY 12303**

**LDA of Central New York
722 West Manlius Street
East Syracuse, NY 13057**

**LDA Life & Learning Services
339 East Avenue, 4th Floor
Rochester, NY 14604**

**LDA of Long Island
44 South Elmwood Avenue
Montauk, NY 11954**

**LDA of the Mohawk Valley
401 Columbia Street
Utica, NY 13502**

**LDA of New York City, Inc.
27 West 20th Street,
Room 303
New York, NY 10011**

**LDA of the Southern Tier
112 Nanticoke Avenue
Endicott, NY 13760**

**LDA of Western New York
2555 Elmwood Avenue
Kenmore, NY 14217**

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May 9, 2011

To: **Members, New York State Board of Regents**
David Steiner, Commissioner NYS Education Department
John B. King, Senior Deputy Commissioner, NYS Education Dept.
Rebecca H. Cort, Associate Commissioner for Special Education
Patricia J. Geary, Coordinator, Special Education Policy and
Professional Development

From: Stephen Boese, Executive Director

Re: **Position Statement on High School Graduation and Diploma
Requirements, May 2011**

The Learning Disabilities Association of the State of New York, after much review and discussion, has issued the attached **Position Statement on High School Graduation and Diploma Requirements May 2011**.

We recently had the pleasure of discussing many of these concerns in meetings with Dr. King and other senior staff at the Education Department, and in an extensive discussion with Ms. Geary and staff from the Special Education office. We greatly appreciate these opportunities for dialogue, and to have our concerns heard by principals at the Education Department. We hope that our views expressed in the attached paper will be seen as we intend, which is as the next step in this dialogue and as a constructive effort to present the needs of individuals with learning disabilities and their families in the critically important discussion regarding NYS high school graduation and diploma requirements.

We look forward to continued discussion regarding these concerns, and the ongoing need to assure that students with learning disabilities will receive appropriate educational support in school and provided the opportunity to graduate high school with bona fide and recognized diplomas.

Cc:
Sen. John J. Flanagan, Chair, NYS Senate Education Committee
Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Chair, NYS Assembly Education
Committee