

# LDA

## Learning Disabilities Association of New York State, Inc.

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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