

ADVOCACY ALERT



March is PTA Advocacy Month

Issues Brief: Funding Our Schools

Issues Brief: Assessing Student and Teacher Performance

Governor Cuomo states that “a strong effective school system is the hallmark of a healthy democracy” and calls for reform. He also calls upon us to work together to build a *New New York*. In order to accomplish either, we must:

- **Level (up) the playing field to ensure equitable access to a sound, basic education based on Regents graduation standards for every child**
- **Build on a positive, solid base of who we are, our successes and what our schools are doing well**

Our campaign is two-fold: a letter/postcard writing initiative and a Virtual Lobby Day.

Please, write letters and/or postcards to your representatives in Albany. You can use the attached information in a letter or postcard format, or create your own using the issue brief/talking points included. Letters should be sent to all those listed on the reverse side, and your local area representatives. Have members sign several copies at your meetings, and send them all in one envelope. The postcard included should be duplicated on postcard sheets available at local office supply stores (remember to put on a stamp). Duplicate a batch and have members sign at your next meeting! Send out letters/postcards more than once. *The more Albany hears from us, the stronger our message becomes.*

Virtual Lobby Day is *Tuesday, March 3*. On that day we are asking all members to call, email and/or fax their legislators. Tell them you support full funding for public schools and want to see restoration of education support. Contact all legislators listed, as well as your local representatives. *We need thousands of voices to ensure our message is heard.*

Together we can send a powerful message to Albany to:

- **Honor past commitments to fairly and adequately fund our schools**
- **Re-examine the effectiveness of student and educator assessment practices in improving effectiveness of instruction**

