



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
AND COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
THE NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
ALBANY, NY 12234

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Dear Teacher Colleague:

The New York State Academy for Teaching and Learning has several goals. One is to honor **the active participation** of teachers in helping their students achieve the learning standards established by the Board of Regents. In honoring the hard work of so many teachers, the Academy also honors the significant **role that teaching plays** in helping to focus classroom instruction on the learning standards. Another goal is to **highlight a process** pioneered by the charter members of the Academy. These teachers were willing to be learners, too; they dared to share their own work and that of their students with peers from across the State and to ask each other for critical review. They, in partnership with the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, designed the process for the Statewide Peer Review.

The Statewide Peer Review exemplifies teacher professionalism. The spirit of reflective practice embodied in the process is crucial to our efforts to make the learning standards the base upon which all classroom activity is built. In the pages that follow, you will find a description of the aims, guiding principles, and methods that are part of this review. It is the Department's hope that you will be challenged by the process—challenged enough to try it yourself in partnership with colleagues from your school, district, professional networks, and BOCES. It is our hope that this booklet will guide your work and that you will feel free to adapt the methods to suit your own situation.

I am sure that your peer review conversations will enrich your teaching, enhance the learning of your students, and inform the work of other teachers by helping them learn ways to use the learning standards as the core of their teaching. Finally, in recognition of your involvement in this initiative, I hope to be able to welcome you to the New York State Academy for Teaching and Learning. For more information on the Academy and its Statewide Peer Review, please visit www.nysatl.nysed.gov or email nysatl@mail.nysed.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Mills