

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**  
**SENATOR, 63<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT**

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December 3, 2013

Dr. John B. King, Jr.  
Commissioner of Education  
New York State Education Department  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12234

Dear Commissioner King:

I write to follow-up on a letter I wrote to you over two weeks ago, dated November 15. In the letter, I requested that you schedule a community forum in the City of Buffalo. I am still awaiting your response.

As you know, the only community forum scheduled in Western New York will be held December 4 in Jamestown, which is about 70 miles – or more than an hour-and-a-half drive – away from Buffalo. Many local families will miss out on the chance to meet directly with you. Soon after I wrote my letter, your spokesman told *The Buffalo News* that you “will definitely be holding a forum in Erie County before the end of the year.” The end of the year is fast-approaching, and a Buffalo forum has yet to be scheduled.

As a state, we need to pursue solutions to the challenges our schools face. The second largest city in the state, home to thousands of children and far too many struggling schools, should not be excluded from these critically important conversations. I urge you to find a time and date to come to Buffalo to speak with parents about the Common Core changes coming to New York State. At the very least, you must hold an event much closer than 70 miles away from Buffalo.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact me in my district office at 716.826.2683. I have enclosed a copy of my original letter.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Kennedy  
New York State Senator, 63rd District

