

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

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## Dear Partners,

I am excited about our MBK Fellows and Friends leadership retreat next week at Honors Haven. The team has worked long and hard to put together a program that will inspire, equip, and engage each person. To give our students the best experience, please follow up with the students/chaperones on the following points:

- Plan to arrive NO LATER than 4PM on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup>. We have a full agenda and will begin on time.
- Fellows and Friends should dress as the emerging leaders that they are. Wednesday morning, a suit and tie with dress shoes would be ideal. However, a collared shirt, tie, jacket and slacks will suffice. Commissioner Elia and other dignitaries, as well as the media, will be at our event.
- Weather permitting, there will be a 1.25 mile hike to a waterfall after lunch on Wednesday. Bring comfortable clothes and shoes to change into.
- Please remind each student to read pages 1-21 of Madd Truth prior to arrival. We will have spare books and time to read prior to our book study on Wednesday if you do not have the book in advance.

On behalf of the entire leadership team at the New York State Education Department, thank you for your patience and cooperation. I look forward to seeing and engaging with you all.

Dr. Anael Alston **Assistant Commissioner** Office of Access, Equity and Community Engagement Services **NYS Education Department** 89 Washington Avenue-EBA 971 Albany, NY 12234