

## **New York State Learning Standards Review Video Transcript**

***MaryEllen Elia***: Hello. I'm MaryEllen Elia, New York State Education Commissioner.

As you may know, we are in the process of reviewing the English Language Arts and Mathematics Learning Standards to ensure we have the best set of learning standards for our children.

Last fall more than 10,500 educators, parents, and community members responded to our AimHighNY survey with feedback on our English Language Arts and Math standards. It was clear that there was strong support for high learning standards, but that adjustments were needed.

This summer, the English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards Review Committees reviewed each standard for every grade level for ELA and math. They also used feedback from the AimHighNY survey and provided revisions to the standards.

The committees include over 130 parents and educators, representing all of New York's regions, including the Big 5 cities,

as well as urban, suburban, and rural communities. And they had great feedback.

**Kerri Miltenberg:** Overall it was an extremely positive experience to collaborate with people from all around New York State including district level leaders, building level leaders, teachers, parents, community members, to try to make a coherent set of standards and a cohesive set of standards that really works for the students in our classrooms.

**David Hurst:** Coming in there were no ground rules really put forth. We were able to really bring our own perspectives and those that we had gathered from colleagues. The State didn't really set an agenda in terms of what the outcome should look like. It was really left to us to read the standards carefully.

**Ani Rosario:** Parents, teachers, administrators, union representatives – everybody's voice was at the table. Everybody had a hand in the revision suggestions down to the word level. Voices were heard and many of those voices were key to the revision proposals that are being put forward. So it wasn't just a teacher suggesting, it wasn't just an administrator, it wasn't just a

parent voice – it was all of those people who came to a consensus after having an academic debate.

**Melissa McMullan:** What we really tried to do is honor where kids are in the classroom. We really tried to ask each other and ask the communities that we came from: how do we best meet the needs of children in our schools?

**Wendy Mistretta:** I mean this is something I'm coming in as a parent saying: "What does this mean for my child? What does this mean for our children? And how are they able to handle this, how is it going to prepare them for what comes next after high school?"

**Stacey Caruso-Sharpe:** I'm hoping that people will feel more engaged. They'll feel a part of it, they'll understand what we were doing and why and that it will make more sense.

**Dawn Shannon:** We really were quite thoughtful about this, that this wasn't a rubber stamp. That we really took the time to say what does this mean for our students and should we really go there? Is this what students should be able to know and do by the time they graduate from high school?

**Emmett Hoops:** What we came up with I think is going to be appreciated by teachers and parents and everyone who's involved in the process. I think we have a better document than we had.

**Simone Thornton:** But now the voices of the parents need to be heard. They need to review this. Teachers need to review this. And be critical and be honest. And then reply, then respond. And make comments so that changes can be made because this is our opportunity. I've had the opportunity to have a voice. Now it's in the hands of the public to have their voice heard as well.

**Brenna Farrell-Geiese:** We did the best that we could and I think we did an excellent job of reviewing them, but there are other voices that I'm sure want to be heard and need to be heard.

**MaryEllen Elia:** I want to thank all the committee members who volunteered their time. They did great work processing and proposing revisions to the standards. Now, we ask for your help.

Your voice is important and we want to hear from you. The AimHighNY website has a series of survey questions asking for

your input on the changes. Please take the time to review the revised standards and tell us what you think.

After the public comment period, the revised standards will be presented to the Board of Regents for their consideration.

Thank you for your time and dedication to this review process. Together, we'll create the best set of learning standards for our students in New York State.