



SENIOR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION – P-16
Office of Elementary, Middle, Secondary and Continuing Education
Office of Higher Education

June 2009

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to share with you a copy of the New York State Professional Development Standards. The Board of Regents endorsed this document at its February 2009 meeting. A printable version of the Standards is also available on the Office of Teaching Initiatives Web site at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert>.

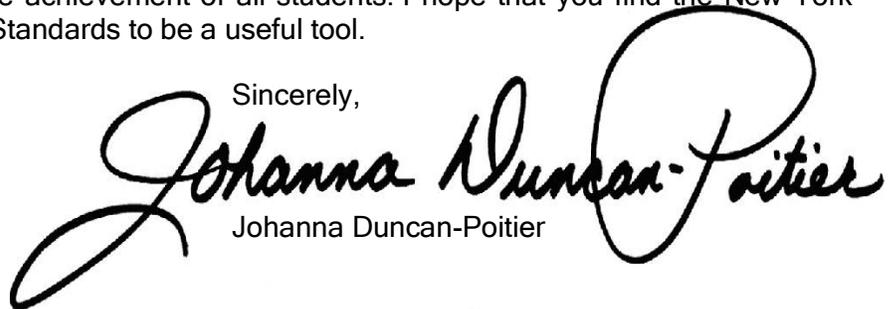
Research tells us that teacher quality is the single most powerful influence on student achievement. It is essential, therefore, to ensure that teachers are provided with ongoing, high quality professional development to sustain and enhance their practice. It is important that we support school districts in their efforts to provide high quality professional development that addresses these needs. This document provides a useful tool for all educators engaged in professional development. For the first time, New York has a set of Statewide standards that schools can use in planning their professional development programs, and also in evaluating and improving those programs.

The establishment of State standards emerged from work of the State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching. In developing this document, the Standards Board sought to identify the attributes of quality professional development that promotes sustained professional growth and examination of practice. The ten standards were developed after months of consideration, which included discussion with the Board of Regents Committee on Higher and Professional Education and a public comment process. The standards are aligned with the New York State Student Learning Standards and are based on an analysis and adaptation of the National Staff Development Council's Standards for Staff Development as well as other national, state, and professional standards. The draft was revised based upon the many comments and suggestions received from a wide range of organizations and individuals, and the revised document was presented to the Board of Regents in February.

We will continue to work with the Standards Board to develop a guidance document that we believe will be a helpful companion piece to the Standards. It will include suggestions and resources for districts as they plan, deliver, and assess their professional development programs.

Continuous professional learning plays an important part in our efforts to close the achievement gap and improve the achievement of all students. I hope that you find the New York State Professional Development Standards to be a useful tool.

Sincerely,



Johanna Duncan-Poitier

Enclosure

cc: Members of the New York State Board of Regents