



30 August, 2010

Hon. Arne Duncan  
U.S. Secretary of Education  
United States Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

We write to ask that you take action towards requiring meaningful family and parent participation in the turnaround process of the lowest performing schools. As recent polls have shown, the public wants more participation of parents and other family members in the turnaround process. We provided the New York State Education department our proposal on meaningful parent participation. They rejected our proposal and have implemented no process for meaningful parent and community participation in these schools.

We ask that you take immediate action to require meaningful parent and community participation in transforming or turning around low performing schools. This process should include among other things: school based planning teams with adequate parent representation, public meetings in order to meaningfully inform and engage parents and the community, and a yearlong planning process in order to facilitate meaningful engagement and enable well informed, evidence- based decisions regarding turning around our lowest performing schools.

Respectfully,

Billy Easton

Executive Director

Attached is the report *Our Communities Left Behind: An Analysis of the Administrations School Turnaround Policies* and the proposal for *Sustainable School Transformation* from the Communities for Excellent Schools of which AQE is founding member <http://www.ceps-ourschools.org>.

Also, attached is the proposal given to NYSED in March 2010.