



Wednesday, March 19, 2008

CFE, AQE object to proposed final regs for contract for excellence development



ALBANY - The Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Inc. (CFE) and the Alliance for Quality Education (AQE) issued a letter to Richard Mills, state Commissioner of Education, urging him to reconsider the proposed final regulations surrounding Section 211-d[4] of the Education Budget and Reform Act of 2007-2008, which concerns the “public process” for development of Contracts for Excellence.

Citing their organizations’ leading roles in the development and enactment of the law, CFE and AQE charge that the New York State Education Department’s proposed final regulations misinterpret the law and severely limit and undermine one of its basic tenets: expansive public participation to ensure that the voice and the views of the public are given an active and substantial role in determining how the new education resources are effectively utilized to achieve the goal of academic excellence for all public school children.

Despite limited statewide inclusion of the public in the first year of the Contract, the input of CFE, AQE and other education reform organizations and members of the public had a substantial impact on the 2007-2008 approval process.