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We are writing this letter on behalf of the New York Council of Administrators of Special Education (NYCASE), formally known as CNYSEA, which is the New York chapter of the International Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) of the Council for Exceptional Students (CEC). NYCASE is a membership organization for professionals involved in providing leadership to and administering services for students with disabilities. Many of our members have been involved in the delivery of special education services to students with disabilities since the 1970s when the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), then referred to as The Education of all Handicapped Students Act (EHA), was first enacted.

NYCASE supports the proposal to amend section 100.5(d)(7) of the Commissioner's Regulations to extend the ability to graduate with a Local Diploma via appeal of a score of 55 to students with disabilities who meet the stipulated conditions for appeal, and are otherwise eligible to graduate in January 2016 and thereafter.

The current proposal strengthens the diploma safety net for students with disabilities and is congruent with the existing appeal process for Regents exam scores of 62-64. We also appreciate that the proposal recognizes the need for AIS for students with disabilities.

NYCASE also supports NYSED's stated intention in Charles A. Szuberla, Jr.'s 9/8/15 memo, to soon consider additional pathways to graduation, including, for example, project-based assessments, for students with disabilities who have a history of failing Regents exams.

Sincerely,

Lori DeCarlo
Co-President

Heidi McCarthy
Co-President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori DeCarlo".

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi McCarthy, Ed.D.". The signature is written in a cursive style.