

President PHILIP RUMORE



December 7, 2013

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MEMO TO: All Buffalo Teachers
FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF
RE: National Day of Action

FYI - We should all support this. BTF is planning real action.

We are looking at picketing Regent Bennett's house to protest his and the Board of Regent's actions. We will have our "Our Students Are Not A Test Score" signs available.

Stay tuned for more information.

PR:su

To: Cabinet and Regional Staff Directors
From: Lee Cutler
Date: November 12, 2013
Re: Day of ActionDecember 9

By now, you may have heard that a broad coalition of partners, including both the AFT and NEA is mobilizing for a National Day of Action to reclaim the promise of public education on December 9. While most of the events will be held on December 9, there will be other public activities occurring throughout the entire week of December 3-10.

NYSUT will be joined by our coalition partners, AQE and Citizens Action in this national day of action outlined below. I think you will agree that the plan below is really a reinforcement and extension of our work these past few months. The impact of participating with cities and regions all over the country will make our message stronger and inspire our members and leaders. It's important to note that the Day of Action will follow the same overarching theme, but each state or city will choose their own activities to fit the work they are doing and the specific challenges they are facing. In order for this to be successful in New York, we will need your support and efforts on the ground throughout the State.

The plan on our state day of action will focus on the following core issues:

- Fair funding of our public schools
- A three-year moratorium on high stakes consequences of standardized testing
- The attainment of course corrections that SED must make to restore the focus in our classrooms to teaching and learning.

On December 9 and throughout that week, we are planning actions to strengthen solidarity between our members, NYSUT, parents and communities and to strengthen support for our public schools. Initial ideas include the following:

We plan to maximize the impact of this nationally coordinated action by demonstrating solidarity and holding actions in as many places as possible on the same day.

Our actions will be as follows:

- On December 9, 2013 we will ask all members to wear the color blue in solidarity and in support for public education. We will ask parents to join us so that there is a sea of blue across the state.
 - > Locals will be asked to send pictures of members wearing blue to us and we would plaster them across our website.
 - > Locals will be asked to send photos via twitter or Facebook to Commissioner King with a message saying "We are blue because....." and they could fill in the blank. The reasons why they are blue should speak to the need for the course corrections that we recommend. NYSUT could post a running list of the reasons why members are blue on our website.
 - > If a local has a good relationship with parents, the local will be asked to encourage parents to wear blue as well. Parents could send a twitter or Facebook photo and tell King why they are blue too.
- NYSUT will hold joint press conferences with AQE, Citizen Action and other allies in several locations on December 9 to promote our shared legislative agenda and the message that the state should focus on teaching and learning, not testing. Press events will emphasize that:
 - > Our schools need equitable and adequate funding to provide quality teaching and learning, and to get back on track with implementation of CFE. The undemocratic tax cap is exacerbating the problem and must be changed. These issues are a high priority for the 2014 state budget.
 - > The implementation of the new standards must be done right. Until then, we need a moratorium on high stakes consequences and less testing as well as the course corrections outlined in the seven point plan sent to Regents.
 - > We'll be working together on both these issues in order to focus all policymakers on teaching and learning, not testing.

- During the week of December 3-10, NYSUT leaders together with community leaders will meet with their respective Regent(s) and urge them to support the 7 course corrections listed in the NYSUT, AFT, and UFT letter originally sent by Dick Iannuzzi to the Chancellor and Education Commission on October 17.

We welcome any suggestions you may have to make this event a success. We will be meeting with our coalition partners on Wednesday, November 13 to finalize the plans so please keep in mind that this letter is just a basic rough outline of the day and may change after that meeting. The National Day of Action connects what we have been fighting for in New York with a national movement. With your support, the Day of Action will amplify our voices and help us achieve our goals.