



The Future of LOTE Regents Exams - A Message from the NYS AFLT President

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First of all, let me thank you for your response to our call to spread the word regarding the proposal to eliminate the LOTE assessments. Many of you have used your own personal networks in order to convey this important message to as many New York State language teachers as possible. Already many emails have been sent to Regents and some have even received responses. I want you to know that NYS AFLT is doing all that it can to preserve the LOTE assessments and a curriculum that is recognized for excellence throughout the nation. I encourage you to continue to make as many contacts as possible, to not only our Regents but also and especially to your state legislators who will be voting on these funding measures. We must make them realize the devastating effect that the elimination of these exams will have on our students.

Following the receipt of Thursday's memo, NYS AFLT has taken the following steps:

- sent a [listserv message](#) informing members of the proposal and action that they could take
- included contact information for the Regents
- created talking points to be used in communications
- posted the listserv message to the public area of the website for all to access (members and non-members)
- contacted various language organizations for support, i.e.: ACTFL, NECTFL, JNCL-NCLS, AATs, etc.
- consulted with **Al Martino** and **Mary Holmes**, former SED LOTE Associates and several NYS AFLT Past Presidents
- teleconferenced with **Kin Chee**, SED LOTE Associate, who shared some background information regarding the chain of events, standards review, Race to the Top and proposed budget cuts
- made arrangements to have a NYS AFLT presence at the Board of Regents Meeting on Monday, March 8th at the State Education Department in Albany

Again I would like to thank the **NYS AFLT Executive Committee**, **John Carlino**, **Roseann Loreface**, **Ken Hughes**, **Board members**, **Past Presidents**, and all who have offered support, suggestions, and taken action on behalf of our organization. I mentioned in an earlier message that languages are often overlooked and we always need to work a little harder to get the recognition that we deserve. Unfortunately, we have found ourselves in this situation before. It is this experience, however, that gives us the drive and determination to know how to rise up in the face of adversity. Let's keep up the good fight! As always, your membership in NYS AFLT is critical as we look for strength in numbers. Please pass on the word, especially to colleagues who might not already be members of NYS AFLT. We all need to stand together!

Please see an article from the [Buffalo News](#) related to this current issue.

We are also aware of an article that was published in [NewsDay](#).

The [Albany Times Union](#) has also published an article on this story.

If there is any media coverage in your region, please let us know (info@nysaflt.org).

To view the complete memo from the State Education Department, please click the following link:
<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2010Meetings/March2010/0310emscd2.htm>.

I urge anyone and everyone with a phone or email to contact [the Regents](#), your state legislators ([Assembly](#) and [Senate](#)) and [NYSUT](#) to voice opposition to these proposals. Especially important in this process would be the Regents on the [Committee on Elementary, Middle, Secondary and Continuing Education \(EMSCE\)](#).

Sincerely,

Sue Hochmuth
NYSAFLT President

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