

Dear Regent \_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to urge you to decline the proposal to eliminate the Middle School mandates for home and career skills, technology education and library and information skills in the curriculum.

State-by-state research repeatedly shows these curriculum programs are an integral component of a successful student's education. Studies demonstrate that students in schools with strong school programs achieve better grades and score higher on standardized tests than their peers without such programs.

As you prepare to discuss the draft mandate relief proposals, we ask you to consider the imperative role of home and career, technology education and school library program in the preparation of 21<sup>st</sup> Century students for college and career readiness. There is a genuine need to keep these programs as a requirement in middle level education. Only at the middle level is curriculum specific in inquiry and information skills a requirement for students. Removing these skills at the middle level removes them from the curriculum completely and only increases the likelihood that students will graduate without the skills in place that they need to be successful beyond their K-12 career.

Colleges throughout New York State have struggled to meet the needs of incoming students who are deficient in 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. These are the same skills delivered most successfully through the subjects in question. It is these skills that allow students to work responsibly, and be successful.

I ask you to please support the continued requirement that home and career skills, technology education and library skills remain as an important part of the curriculum in middle level education.