

# NRTA

**North Rockland Teachers' Association**

Affil. w. RCTA, NYSUT & AFT AFL-CIO

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Dear Members,

I thought it would be important to start the second half of the year with some positive news.

The tide is turning for the teaching profession and we need to stay together and be as proud as we are professional.

In the State of the Union address President Obama said, "To every young person listening tonight, "if you want to make a difference in the life of our nation, if you want to make a difference in the life of a child become a teacher. Your country needs you."

Shared responsibility for school success and lifelong learning also factored heavily into the State of the Union address. "Responsibility begins not in our classrooms but in our homes and communities," said Obama, who called for strong parental oversight of schoolwork, and an education approach that does not end with a high school diploma.

Recently in a Florida paper these headline appeared, Florida Lawmaker Wants Teachers to Grade Parents The general idea is

If an elementary school teacher graded you on your involvement in your child's education, what kind of a grade would you get?

Should your kid's first-grade teacher be grading you in the first place?

The parents' grades of "satisfactory," "unsatisfactory" or "needs improvement" would be added to their children's report card.

If Florida state Rep. Kelli Stargel's bill becomes law, public school teachers will be required to grade the parents of students in kindergarten through the third grade. Stargel, a Republican who sits on several education legislative committees, says that parental involvement is key to educating children for years to come.

A strange and cool place for praise of school teachers is captured on the video below. Wait for the Thank you portion at the end. Avert your eyes from the red dress!

NYSUT is working around the clock to rally legislators to vote NO on Cuomo's attacks on public education and pensions. Attached is a press release and a power point giving us truths to protect and restore our respect in this profession. When you get a chance take a look at the attachments. Information is a tool and a weapon.

We also are working on outreach to our parents whose children will be the losers in all this. Alliance for Quality Education and Citizen Action are organizing parents to join with us in rallies in a number of locations around the state to defend public education. These are not solely NYSUT events they will be co-sponsored and represent partnerships at the local level that are especially valuable because they amplify our message and show that parents and community members are equally committed to public education. We will need every member, their families and friends to participate when the time comes.

The NRTA officers know first-hand how much time, dedication and effort you already put into your responsibilities as members and yet, now we are asking you to do even more. We do so confident in the belief that our union's strength, energy and success depend on solidarity. These may be the worst of times but they are the times that can positively build our union for the next generation.

Lets try to focus on the positive. Unite in Solidarity. Fight when we need to.

In Unity,  
Robin Brennan