



September 19, 2016

To: Members of the Principal Project Advisory Team

From: MaryEllen Elia, Commissioner of Education

John L. D'Agati, Deputy Commissioner
Office of Higher Education

Subject: September 21, 2016 Meeting

Thank you, again, for accepting our invitation to serve on the Principal Project Advisory Team. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at the New York State Education Department in Albany, New York.

This letter sets the stage for the discussions you will have over the next six months. We look forward to the recommendations that we have asked you and your colleagues on the Advisory Team to produce. We are asking you and your colleagues on the Advisory Team to undertake four tasks.

- Review requirements related to the preparation of school building leaders;
- Decide if improvements are possible related to standards, professional development, supervision, or evaluation;
- If warranted, forward recommendations to us for consideration and action by the New York State Board of Regents; and
- Give us advice on the development of a tool to help districts identify, select, and place school building leaders.

This work matters because it builds on two beliefs. Every student in New York State should have great teachers and a great principal. We can enhance student success by improving the quality of school building leadership.

As one of the Advisory Team members, you will bring your view of leadership to the deliberations. For a consensus to emerge, the Team will have to consider a wide range of viewpoints. We are convinced that the diversity of views within the Team will strengthen and enhance the recommendations that emerge.

While we can point with pride to current principal preparation programs in New York State; at the same time our confidence in the quality of existing programs is exceeded by a commitment to continuous improvement. Like you, we share an interest in doing all we can to support the efforts of university and district staff to prepare future building leaders. Regardless of the organizations we represent or the roles we hold in those organizations, we are drawn together by the same overarching and collective goal. That goal is to staff our schools with individuals who can unify and mobilize staff and community in a way that equips every young person in our State for success in college and career.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your commitment to this important work.