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Perhaps now more than ever, it is essential that educators, teachers, parents, and community residents share the same understanding about the changes and challenges taking place in education in New York State. Much has been reported and discussed about the way in which students are being educated through the introduction of the Common Core State Standards and the impact on student assessments and teacher evaluation. **To effectively lead and participate in meaningful discussions, it is imperative that all stakeholders share the same understanding of the topics being discussed.**

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Several years ago, the federal government introduced educational policies, such as Race to the Top (RTTT) and performance-based standards often referred to as the national initiative to improve education. Race to the Top is a \$4.35 billion U.S. Department of Education contest to spur innovation and reforms in state local school district education in K-12. It is funded by the ED Recovery Act as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and was announced by President Barack Obama then Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on July 24, 2009. New York State applied for these funds and was awarded \$700 million to comply with these initiatives. Out of that came major changes in the NYS Regents Reform Agenda to implement the promises made to the States were awarded points for satisfying the Department of Education.

DISPELLING THE MYTHS BY KNOWING THE FACTS

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COMMON CORE LEARNING STANDARDS

Myth:
These standards amount to a national curriculum for our schools.

FACT:

