



*FROM COGEN TO MULGREW
UNITING THE LABOR FORCE
PROTECTING
PUBLIC EDUCATION*

Mulgrew, UFT/UNITY Help End Tyranny of Testing

Michael Mulgrew and **UNITY** leadership helped restore sanity to student learning and teacher evaluation with twin wins in Albany and Washington.

On Dec. 10, Gov. Cuomo bowed to **UNITY**-organized pressure as he watched his approval ratings plummet:

- May 30, 2012 - statewide approval for Cuomo's education policies was 47%; **disapproval rating of 31%**.
- March 18, 2015 - statewide approval 28%, a 19 point drop; **disapproval rating of 63%**, a 32 point increase.
- And, this past September, a Quinnipiac University poll found **New York voters trusted teachers' unions more than Mr. Cuomo to improve education**, by 54% to 31%.

Cuomo then created a Common Core Task Force to review the state's testing system and the disastrous common core roll-out.

Last week, Cuomo endorsed their recommendations, which included replacing the Common Core with new state learning standards – to be developed “with sufficient local input,” his press release says – and student tests aligned with them. He suspended test-related teacher evaluations for at least four years “to ensure the system is implemented completely and properly to avoid the errors caused by the prior flawed implementation.”

That same day, Mulgrew was in the White House as President Obama signed a law barring the federal government from linking teacher evaluations to test scores. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) also helps states and districts reduce unnecessary tests, kills one-size-fits-all mandates, encourages college-ready high-school graduation, and expands high-quality state pre-K.

“This law ends the federal obsession with high-stakes testing that narrowed what was taught in classrooms and did little to close the achievement gap,” Mulgrew stated. “This legislation makes clear that ‘test and punish’ is no longer the law of the land. It is a proud day when the Senate, Congress and the President listen to parents and teachers across this country and respond to our shared concerns.”

Wishing you a Happy Holiday & a Healthy New Year!
~Michael Mulgrew and the Unity Team.



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