



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

## End Use of High Stake Tests to Grade Teachers

JEFF BISHOP, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR April 30, 2018

| ISSUE: **EDUCATION**



**ALBANY, 04/30/18** – State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I-Oneonta) today announced senate introduction of [legislation he co-sponsors](#) which would eliminate the use of high-stake standardized tests to evaluate teachers and principals.

**“I have opposed tying standardized test results to teacher assessments from the time the governor first forced the policy through as part of the 2015-16 state budget,”** said Senator Seward. **“It is important to evaluate teacher performance to ensure we have the best and brightest standing at the front of the classroom educating our kids, however, high-stake standardized tests are the wrong measuring stick.”**

Student scores for grade 3-8 math and English standardized tests were added to the teacher evaluation formula as part of Governor Cuomo’s 2015-16 state budget. At the time, Senator Seward successfully fought to reduce the emphasis on standardized tests as compared to the governor’s initial proposal. [Senate bill 8301](#) would completely eliminate the use of the standardized tests entirely and require the State Education Department to establish an alternative assessment system.

**“When the governor first began his offensive against teachers, I expressed my dismay. The problems he described simply were not evident in the schools in my senate district – I know, because I spend time visiting classrooms and meeting with teachers and administrators. The new senate legislation I co-sponsor will ensure that reasonable criteria, developed by education professionals, will be used to measure teacher performance. This will end the so-called ‘teaching to the test’ mindset that many teachers are forced to adopt and lead to a better overall learning atmosphere in our classrooms,”** Seward concluded.

The senate bill and companion legislation (A.10475) introduced in the assembly are each sponsored by the respective chamber’s education committee chair.

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RELATED LEGISLATION

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## **2017-S8301**

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- Introduced

- ○ In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- ○ On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- ○ Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Relates to state assessments and teacher evaluations

April 27, 2018

In Senate Committee [Rules](#)

Sponsored by [Carl L. Marcellino](#)

Do you support this bill?