

Alternative Education Steering Committee

February 12 2009

On February 12, SAANYS' Director of Government Relations, James Viola, met with the State Education Department Alternative Education Steering Committee. Viola presented information regarding SAANYS services, but primarily focused upon initiatives of the Governor's Summit Statewide Organizations Group and on SAANYS' position paper regarding recommended revisions to the No Child Left Behind Act in regard to defining and calculating "successful school completion". Greg Bayduss, the SED Supervisor who leads the committee indicated that Viola will be invited to all future committee meetings.

Other important information presented at the meeting follows:

- SAANYS member Darryl Daily presented information regarding a final report issued by the Temporary Special Advisory Panel On Driver Education. The Panel was co-chaired by State Education Department Commissioner Richard Mills and Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner David Swarts. The report which provides compelling rationale in support of driver education and details 13 recommendations is available on the SED and DMV websites at www.nysed.gov or www.nysdmv.com.

The State Education Department Office of Student Support Services has established a new mechanism to provide technical assistance to school counselors. Information regarding graduation/diploma requirements, pupil personnel services, transfers/students/credits, attendance, working papers, residency, 310 appeals to the commissioner, discipline, corporal punishment, and more is available from the department by e-mailing GUIDANCE4COUNSELORS@MAIL.NYSED.GOV