



March 2016 Newsletter

*e-Leader*

## **Connect:NY public education tv series**

WCNY/Syracuse is producing Connect:NY, a one-hour public affairs series focused on education in New York State. There are 6 programs scheduled to be part of the first run of the series. Each program features NYS Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia and Connect:NY host Susan Arbetter joined by guests from different areas of the state.

The last 2 episodes will be aired on WCNY Channel 24 PBS in March and April...

### **School Financing and Equity - March 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 p.m.**

In 2006, the Court of Appeals ruled in Campaign for Fiscal Equity v. State of New York that the state had not met its constitutional obligation to provide adequate school funding to students in New York City. In 2007, the legislature remedied the issue by instituting a new, more generous funding formula. But the recession put a hold on that flow of funds. Now a second lawsuit is wending its way through the legal system to address what the plaintiff's call the legislature's constitutional failure. State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia and school finance experts from around the state discuss both the financial and political considerations of the current state aid formula; how it could be changed; and the underlying reasons for the system's inherent inequity.

### **Achievement Gap - April 11 at 9:00 p.m.**

There is an acknowledged gap in achievement of standardized-test scores, course selection, grades, dropout rates, and college-completion rates among African-American and Hispanic students and their white peers. The key drivers of the gap are poverty and segregation. State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia joins a diverse panel of educators and activists to discuss how New York can close the gap.

The above segments as well as earlier ones on Testing, Opting-Out, and Parental Engagement; Teacher Evaluations, Retention, and Development are also available for streaming online at [wcnyc.org/connectny](http://wcnyc.org/connectny).

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Nassau Region PTA Parliamentarian