

October 19, 2013

Mayor Ted Gatsas, Chairman
Manchester School Board
1 City Hall Plaza
Manchester, NH 03101

Dear Mayor Gatsas:

We write first to congratulate you and the Manchester School Board on its decision to develop superior academic standards. We also write to offer our expertise with standards and curriculum at no cost to the city of Manchester, an offer we have made in radio interviews with Richard Girard and in conversations with Ann Marie Banfield.

Both of us have considerable experience in developing academic standards and a K-12 curriculum addressing these standards. For your information, we attach a document with standards for mathematics that Professor Milgram helped to develop for California. Here is the URL for standards for the English language arts that Professor Stotsky helped to develop for Massachusetts. <http://alscw.org/news/?p=524> The standards in these two documents are very different from the Common Core standards that had been presented to the Board.

We understand that the Board's goal is to have a set of new standards in these two subjects completed by May 2014 and to introduce them into the schools in September 2014. We are willing to advise the Board on an efficient and transparent process for developing its own sets of standards in these two subjects, hopefully using the included documents as working models, and to review and provide commentary on evolving drafts. We are also willing to offer suggestions on appropriate textbooks and other curriculum materials in these two subjects, again at no cost to the city or its schools.

Please let us know how we may begin to help the city of Manchester in its efforts to improve the curriculum in its schools. Manchester has made a bold statement about its commitment to educational excellence. Its success will be emulated by others, putting it on the leading edge of what we hope will be a reinvigoration of public education in New Hampshire and the United States.

Please send a copy of our letter to the members of the Manchester School Board and to Superintendent Debra Livingston.

Sincerely yours,




R. James Milgram and Sandra Stotsky

Cc: Ann Marie Banfield, Richard Girard