CHINESE LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM PROJECT

NYSED OFFICE OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES

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Dear Colleague:

The Chinese Language Arts Curriculum Project (Secondary School Level) was developed as a resource for teachers and administrators. It’s designed to provide educators with a guide which contains the suggested benchmarks, scope and sequence and performance tasks (indicators) which are essential to the development of proficiency in the Chinese language. The principal objective is to enable teachers to better understand and meet the native (and foreign) language needs (and requirements) of students in public schools.

The idea here, which has been supported by research, is that students who are literate in their native language tend to experience greater success in the acquisition of a second language. By the same token, students who are able to interact and function in more than one language are at an advantage in terms of their level of intellectual development, range of awareness and perception of the surrounding world.

This curriculum guide should enable schoolteachers and administrators to develop programs which address both the Native Language Arts needs and Foreign Language requirements of Secondary School ELLs and monolingual students.

The staff of New York State Asian Languages BETAC at New York University composed this document with input from researchers, educators and practitioners in the field of first and second language acquisition.

As more districts adopt and implement this curriculum, all ideas, insights and perspectives should be documented and shared. We invite your comments on this resource guide and appreciate your input relevant to the education of our students.

Please direct your comments to:

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Sincerely,

Dr. Pedro Ruiz