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**Italian Language Foundation and Advocates of Italian Language Education
Score Major Victory as New York State Board of Regents
Approves Continuing Testing in Italian**

New York, NY, August 10, 2010 – The Italian Language Foundation today announced that advocacy efforts to continue New York State Regents testing in the Italian language in June 2011 have been successful.

The Foreign Language Regents Exam in Italian had been imperiled by shortfalls in the New York State budget and in the budget for the State Education Department of New York. At the June 2010 Board of Regents meeting, the Board had proposed cuts that would have eliminated the Italian Regents exam. Subsequent requests for additional funding, accompanied by an active advocacy effort led by the Italian Language Foundation, were partially approved, including funds for the administration of the Italian Regents exam in Italian in June 2011.

“We are delighted that the New York State Legislature and Board of Regents recognized the importance of Italian language education,” said Margaret I. Cuomo, M.D., president of the Italian Language Foundation. “The study of languages other than English is an integral part of the ‘common core standards’ adopted by many states throughout the country, and are an important element of the ‘21st century skills’ that will prepare American students for a global society.

“Still,” Dr. Cuomo continued, “the State Education Department committed only to continue Italian Regents in 2011. Next year, we will continue our efforts to keep Italian language testing as part of the Board of Regents testing program.

“We would like to thank the many advocates of Italian language education for their commitment to an indispensable part of the American education system and for keeping Italian language education strong and alive in New York State.”

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