

COUNCILGRAM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Budget Deliberations Start Slowly *Programs, layoffs and tax rates hang in the balance*

A spate of bad weather in late March made Albany appear still stuck in February, a presumption that could not be disproved by observing the progress of the budget process. While legislators offer up hopes for a “virtually” on-time budget, none of the basic building blocks that are necessary for an early April adoption are yet in place. While both houses appear very close to agreement on revenue estimates, they have not yet been resolved. The Senate believes an additional \$430 million is available, the Assembly an additional \$600 million. As of this writing, the Assembly majority has still not named its conference committee members, stalling this huge and time-consuming part of the process.

Over 20 superintendents from the Legislative Committee met with both Assemblyman Sanders and Senator Kuhl as well as staff of the Executive last Tuesday. While all parties anticipated restoration of BOCES, Excess Cost and “hard-dollar” building aid, none was comfortable committing given last year’s process. When combined with restorations to Teacher Centers and Teacher Support Aid, it became clear that school aid could cost the Legislature nearly \$450 million even before beginning to address Operating aid.

Absent a significant restoration to the Executive Budget almost immediately, schools will not be able to use the additional money to restore programs or positions cut in order to drive down tax rate increases. The 24-day notice prior to the May 21st budget vote ensures that the maximum expenditure budget cannot

grow after April 26th. Additional state dollars will merely mitigate tax impact. Last year set an extraordinary precedent and while schools have adapted quickly to the changed rules, the Legislature and Executive appear slow to catch up. Their plodding pace on budget negotiations shows a lack of urgency inconsistent with a new environment where schools now avoid overestimating revenue to preserve expenditures, which had once enabled the lawmakers’ perpetual tardiness.

As proof of schools’ response to these changed rules, a recent NYS School Boards Association survey of school districts shows that some 93% of districts are using the Executive budget as their revenue estimate. As a result, nearly 70% of districts will eliminate instructional and non-instructional staff, increasing class sizes. Professional development will be the first expenditure to go as over 70% will make cuts to the programs that have been proven to yield the greatest instructional gains. None of these cuts can be undone with legislative restorations that occur after April 26th.

Board of Regents

Despite the stalled budget, March has been a busy month in education policy in Albany with the normally reserved Board of Regents driving most of the headlines. Three new Regents were selected: Milton Cofield, a professor at Rochester Institute of Technology replaces Ena Farley, James Tallon Jr., a former Assembly Majority Leader, will fill Carl Hayden’s seat, and Charlotte Frank’s seat will pass to Judith Rubin, wife of former treasury secretary



**OVER 100 YEARS OF
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**



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NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

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Robert Rubin and former Dinkins administration official. All three candidates had impressive resumes and strong interviews.

However, the overall health of the institution was subjected to scrutiny from two different sources. The Regents elected a new chancellor from among their membership in a vote that was widely reported to have been decided upon racial lines. Regent Robert Bennett was selected by a 12-4 vote over Adelaide Sanford, who would have been the first African-American chancellor. Clearly trying to close ranks after what appeared to be a divisive battle, outgoing Chancellor Carl Hayden took the unusual step of supporting Bennett, calling him the better “communicator and a consensus-builder.”

Simultaneously, the Governor proposed eliminating the Board of Regents altogether, a move that would require a constitutional amendment, the concurrence of the Legislature and a vote of the electorate, rendering success an unlikely prospect. The proposal underscores tensions between lawmakers who have little role in the Regents’ adoption of the expensive higher standards movement, but who must nevertheless fund the cost of the Regents’ initiatives, or answer to local property taxpayers if they do not.

Testing

Another boycott of state accountability tests, this time by middle school students in high-performing alternative schools in NYC continues to keep the testing debate simmering. Brandishing notes from parents, or writing “I object to high-stakes tests” across their answer sheets, the boycott is a reminder of unresolved issues and a lightning rod for skeptical and media-sensitive legislators.

However, the Commissioner and Regents have been responding to school concerns about overtesting in middle school. New SED guidelines will move English to January, leave Math in early May, move Science and Social Studies to June, and make Technology optional

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Revised Schedule for Middle Level Tests Beginning in 2003

Subject	Administration Dates
English Language Arts	Late January immediately before Regents exams
Mathematics*	Late April or Early May
Science Performance Test**	Any time in January
Social Studies	Any time in June before Regents
Science Written Test**	Any time in June before Regents
Technology Education	Any time in June. Voluntary assessment for program evaluation.
Second Language Proficiency	During Regents week, not required for any students.

*May be taken in Grade 7 by accelerated students

**Not required for grade 8 students taking a Regents exam in Science

Creating Safe Learning Spaces in the New Economic Climate

A ONE-DAY SCHOOL FACILITIES
CONFERENCE FOR
**SUPERINTENDENTS,
PRINCIPALS,
BUSINESS OFFICIALS AND
ASSISTANTS**

April 11, 2002

Holiday Inn Turf
Wolf Road, Albany
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Jointly sponsored by:

NY State Council
of School Superintendents
NY State Association
of School Business Officials

Schedule of Events

- 9:00 Registration and Coffee
- 9:30 **General Session**
Schools in Today's Economic and Political Climate
Tom Rogers, Deputy Director, NYSCOSS
- 10:00 **Concurrent Sessions**
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 **General Session**
Redefining Schools
Lew Smith, Director, Fordham University Center
for Educational Research & Leadership
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 **Concurrent Sessions**
- 1:30 Break
- 1:45 **Hot Topics**
(Re)Financing Options
Martin Geiger, Esq., Hawkins, Delafield and Wood
Rick Longhurst, Ass't Superintendent for Business,
Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake CSD
John Shehadi, Fiscal Advisors and Marketing, Inc.
- Safe Learning Milieus***
Thomas Brown, Superintendent, S. Colonie CSD
Lonnie Palmer, Superintendent, Albany City SD
Robert Service, Superintendent, Mohawk CSD
Geraldine F. Wolfe, Superintendent, Catskill CSD
- 2:30 **Closing Session**
The New Aid Formulas
Charles Szuberla, SED Office of Facilities Management and Information Services

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Summer Institute at Harvard

Slate of Distinguished Speakers Set for Three Day Workshop

The Summer Institute at Harvard, scheduled from July 21-24 in Cambridge, MA, will feature presentations by nationally celebrated education researchers. Those seeking extended dialogue with colleagues on key dimensions of leadership and the superintendency should consider this intensive professional development opportunity.

Dr. TheodoreSizer, best known for his work on secondary education, will kick off the program on Monday. Next on the agenda is Dr. Pedro Noguera who has published and lectured on topics such as youth violence, race relations within schools, and the potential impact of school choice and vouchers on urban public schools. Richard Ackerman will complete

Monday's agenda.

Tuesday begins with Dr. Robert Brooks, best known for his work on motivation and resilience. He will be followed by Dr. Tony Wagner, co-director of



the Change Leadership Group at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and author of the book, *Making the Grade: Reinventing America's Schools*. A discussion with Dr. Katherine Boles focusing on teacher leadership will wrap up Tuesday's program.

The institute's final day will

feature noted researcher Richard Elmore, who is currently exploring how different types of schools in different policy contexts develop a sense of accountability and a capacity to deliver high quality instruction.

Cracker Barrel sessions, facilitated by your colleagues will be sprinkled throughout the three-day program. Dr. Marcia Schwartz, Assistant Superintendent of Sullivan County BOCES, is planning the event and promises a challenging and stimulating program.

The program is limited to the first 30 superintendents who register. Accommodations will be at the Sheraton Commander Hotel in Cambridge. Registration information will be mailed to members in early April.

Call for Proposals for Fall Conference

Theme To Be "Today's Students: Tomorrow's Leaders"

The Fall Conference, scheduled for October 6-8, 2002 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, will focus on the theme: "Today's Students: Tomorrow's Leaders."

Concurrent sessions offer members a chance to share their best practices with colleagues. Please send proposals, including title, presenter, a brief description of content and audio-visual equipment needs to Tina Hogle before June 15, 2002. Proposals will be reviewed and selections made in early summer.



Rochester's Skyline looking north, up the Genesee River

Good News from our Members...

Bond Referendums Pass in Saratoga and Bradford

On Tuesday, January 29, the voters of the Bradford Central School District approved a referendum to build a new bus garage for \$1,700,00. The plan calls for the facility to be shared with the Town of Bradford Highway Department.

“We’re looking forward to sharing a facility with one of our component towns. This will allow both parties to get something out of a single project,” said Lynn Lyndes, Bradford Superintendent. Jon Cake, Vice President for Hunt Engineers, Architects & Land Surveyors, P.C. stated, “This is a case where a difficult national economy did not stop the community’s plans to make much-needed improvements to thier public facilities.”

John McFadden, Superintendent of Saratoga Springs City School District, is pleased to report that after a year of study and investigation, a bond proposal in the amount of \$8.5 million passed by a 5 to 1 vote.

The funds will be used to replace the current bus garage which was built in the 1940’s and was deemed inadequate by a district team of residents and administrators. The new 14.9 acre facility will have ample storage space and updated maintenace capabilities. The facility will also house the Facilities and Operations offices that currently lease space.

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Chief School Officer Appointments

William Congdon Horseheads CSD, 4/1/02
Former superintendent at Deposit CSD

Patrick Curtin I., Sauquoit Valley CSD, 4/1/02
Former superintendent at Deposit CSD

Robert D’Angelo I., Newfane CSD, 3/11/02
Former assistant superintendent at Newfane CSD

Gerald Fitzgerald I., Wheelerville UFSD, 4/02-6/30/02

Robert Hanna D.S., Orange-Ulster BOCES, 4/1/02
Former superintendent at Saquoit Valley CSD

Kevin J. Keane.Lexington School for the Deaf, 8/15/02

Karen Raccuia Canisteo CSD, 3/11/02
Former superintendent at Newfane CSD

Richard P. Santelli I., Wheelerville UFSD, 7/1/02
Former high school principal at Johnstown CSD

Stephen J. Vigliotti General Brown CSD, 7/27/02
Former high school principal and ass’t. superintendent at General Brown CSD

William E. Whitehill I., Whitesboro CSD, 2/1/02

A. = Acting I. = Interim

Aspiring School Leaders Sought

Council’s Program Encourages Educational Leadership

Hosted by experienced superintendents in four locations throughout the state, the Aspiring Superintendents’ Program is a one-day workshop which features information and discussion about the superintendency, financial leadership, the superintendent/school board relationship, resumes/credentials ans the interview, and professional and personal challenges of the position.

In order to participate in the program, an individual must be nominated by their district or a university. Please take a few moments to consider

identifying a person or people within your district whom you view as possessing the abilities which are necessary for success in school leadership. Nomination forms have been sent to all districts and must be received by the Council on or before April 10, 2002.

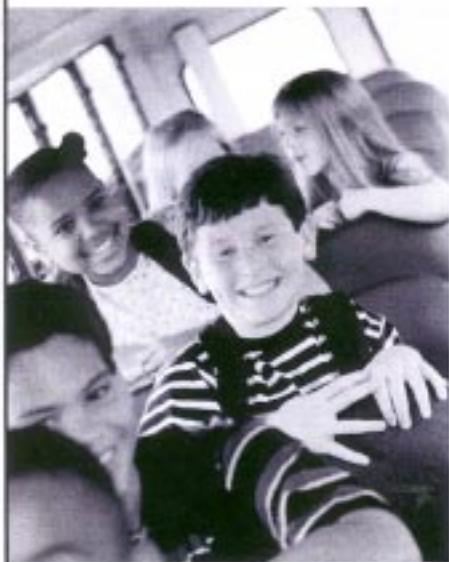
Programs will take place at the following times and locations:

May 22 - Albany and Long Island

May 23 - Rochester and Harriman

Deadline for registration is May 13, 2002.

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Superintendencies

DEPOSIT CSD

Lawrence Kiley, District Sup't. \$93,000-\$97,000
 Broome-Delaware-Tioga BOCES Enr: 710
 435 Glenwood Road Reply by:
 Binghamton, NY 13905-1699 5/1/02

HOLLAND PATENT CSD

William Silky/Suzanne Gilmour \$95,000-\$120,000
 Castallo & Silky Consultants Enr: 1,900
 P.O. Box 100 Reply by:
 Syracuse, NY 13215 5/24/02

MARCUS WHITMAN CSD

Joseph J. Marinelli, District Sup't. up to \$128,000
 Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Enr: 1,725
 131 Drumlin Court Reply by:
 Eisenhower Building 4/10/02
 Newark, NY 14513-1863

PEMBROKE CSD

Vincent Coppola \$105,000-\$120,000
 Western NY Educational Service Council Enr: 1,500
 SUNY at Buffalo Reply by:
 Baldy Hall, Room 222 4/13/02
 Buffalo, NY 14260-1000

PITTSFORD CSD

Jacqueline Roy \$Competitive
 J.A. Roy Associates Enr: 5,800
 PO Box 582 Reply by:
 Dennisport, MA 02639-0582 5/4/02

ROME CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Edward A. Shafer \$125,000-\$140,000
 District Superintendent Enr: 6,000
 Madison-Oneida BOCES Reply by:
 P.O. Box 168, 4937 Spring Road 3/28/02
 Verona, NY 13478-0168

PORT BYRON CSD

Gary A. Gilchrist, District Sup't. \$95,000-\$102,000
 Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES Enr: 1,232
 5980 South St. Rd. Reply by:
 Auburn, NY 13021-5699 4/30/02

ST. REGIS FALLS CSD

David J. DeSantis, Dist. Sup't. mid-\$80,000 range
 Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES Enr: 365
 PO Box 28 Reply by:
 Malone, NY 12953 5/3/02

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CSD

Steven J. Kalies, Dist. Sup't. \$95,000-\$110,000
 Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Enr: 1,370
 PO Box 70- 4747 Middle Settlement Rd. Reply by:
 New Hartford, NY 13413-0070 4/2/02

Other NYS Administrative Positions

(Contact District For Further Information)

Middle School Principal: Jordan Elbridge CSD. Enr: 450. By: 5/1/02. \$Competitive.

Director of Pupil Personnel Services: Scotia-Glenville CSD. Enr: 3,000. By: 4/26/02. \$70,000-\$80,000.

Elementary School Principal: Belle H. Waterman Primary K-2 School, Skaneateles CSD. Enr: 402. By: 4/1/02. \$Competitive.

Director of Humanities: Hyde Park CSD. Enr: 4,671. By: 4/15/02. \$Competitive.

CSE Chairperson: Hyde Park CSD. Enr: 4,671. By: 4/15/02. \$Competitive.

Elementary Principal: Hyde Park CSD. Enr: 4,671. By: 4/15/02. \$Competitive.

Assistant Superintendent: Mineola UFSD. Enr: N/A. By: 3/28/02. \$130,000-145,000.

Department Administrator for Science: Shenendehowa CSD. Enr: 9100. By: 4/30/02. \$Competitive.

Foreign Language Supervisor (grades 6-12): Shenendehowa CSD. Enr: 9100. By: 4/30/02. \$Competitive.

Lead Guidance Counselor (grades 6-12): Shenendehowa CSD. Enr: 9100. By: 4/30/02. \$Competitive.

Department Administrator-Social Studies (high school): Shenendehowa CSD. Enr: 9100. By: 4/30/02. \$Competitive.

Department Administrator-Technology (grades 6-12): Shenendehowa CSD. Enr: 9100. By: 4/30/02. \$Competitive.

Director of Career and Technical Education: Orleans/Niagara BOCES. Enr: 43,000. By: 4/1/02. \$Competitive.

Elementary Principal (2): Auburn Enlarged City School District. Enr: 4,950. By: 4/1/02. \$Competitive.

Director, Foreign Language: Niskayuna CSD. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.

Director, K-12 Science: Niskayuna CSD. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.

Director, K-12 English Language Arts: Niskayuna CSD. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.

Personnel Services: Livonia CSD. Enr: N/A. By: 4/5/02. \$Competitive.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction: Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES. Enr: N/A. By: 3/22/02. \$80,000-\$85,000.

Other NYS Administrative Positions (Contact District For Further Information)

- K-12 Principal:** Roxbury CSD. Enr: 360. By: 4/1/02. \$62,000-\$69,000.
- Junior/Senior High School Principal:** General Brown CSD. Enr: N/A. By: 4/5/02. \$Competitive.
- Director of Career and Technical Education:** Orleans/Niagara BOCES. Enr: 4,950. By: 4/1/02. \$Competitive.
- Elementary Principal (2):** Auburn Enlarged School District. Enr: 4,950. By: 4/1/02. \$Negotiable.
- Director of Pupil Personnel Services:** Livonia CSD. Enr: N/A. By: 4/5/02. \$Competitive.
- School Psychologist:** Windsor CSD. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.
- School Business Administrator:** Ticonderoga CSD. Enr: 1,100. By: 4/2/02. \$60,000-\$70,000.
- Middle School Principal:** Ballston Spa CSD. Enr: 1,070. Grades 6-8. By: 4/1/02. \$75,000-\$100,000.
- High School Principal:** Ballston Spa CSD. Enr: 1,250. grades 9-12. By: 4/1/02. \$80,000-\$105,000.
- Elementary School Principal:** Valley Stream UF #13. Enr: 485. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.
- Middle/High School Principal:** Lake Placid CSD. Enr: N/A. By: 4/11/02. \$Competitive.
- Secondary Principal (7-12):** Union Springs CSD. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$65,000-\$75,000.
- High School Principal:** Hartford CSD. Enr: N/A. By: 5/1/02. \$Competitive.
- House Principal Grades 9-12:** Byron Bergen CSD. Enr: 1250 (dist.). By: 5/1/02. \$Competitive BOE.
- House Principal Grades 5-8:** Byron Bergen CSD. Enr: 1250 (dist.). By: 5/1/02. \$Competitive BOE.
- Elementary Principal:** Byron Bergen Central Schools. Enr: 1250 (dist.). By: 4/1/02. \$Competitive BOE.
- Principal, Technical Education and Career Program:** Schuyler-Chemung-Tioga BOCES. Enr: 750. By: 3/22/02. \$66,500.
- Principal for Technical and Career Education Center:** Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES. Enr: 44,000. By: 4/5/02. \$68,000-\$85,000 BOE.

Out-of-State Opportunities (Contact NYSCOSS For Further Information)

- Superintendent:** School District of Springfield Township, Montgomery County, PA. Enr: 2,091. By: 4/12/02. up to \$140,000.
- Superintendent:** Wicomico County School District #1, Salisbury, MD. Enr: 14,148. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.
- Executive Director:** Alaska Council of School Administrators, Juneau AK. Enr: N/A. By: 4/12/02. \$66,000+.
- Superintendent:** Franklin City School District. Enr: 3,100. By: 4/12/02. \$Competitive.
- Superintendent:** Gallia County Local School District. Enr: 2,767. By: 4/5/02. \$Competitive.
- Superintendent:** Victory Schools, Victory, PA. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$100,000+.
- Superintendent:** Euclid City School District, Euclid, OH. Enr: 6,142. By: 4/5/02. \$Competitive.
- Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership/ Studies:** University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. \$Competitive.
- Superintendent:** Windsor School District, Windsor, CT. Enr: 4,500. By: 3/28/02. \$115,000-\$135,000.
- Superintendent:** Allentown School District, Allentown, PA. Enr: 16,700. By: 3/23/02. \$Competitive.
- Superintendent:** Ridgewood SD, Bergen County, IL. Enr: 5,200. By: 7/1/02. \$Highly competitive.
- Superintendent:** Tuba City Unified School District #15. Enr: 3,000. By: 4/12/02. \$Competitive.
- Superintendent:** Galien Township Schools, Galien, MI. Enr: 312. By: 4/15/02. \$Competitive.
- Superintendent:** Chelsea School District, Chelsea, MI. Enr: 2,943. By: 4/19/02. \$105,000 and up.
- Superintendent:** Otsego Public Schools, Otsego, MI. Enr: 2,343. By: 4/17/02. \$Competitive.

Vacancy Postings

NYSCOSS will post vacancies on the Web site and in the *Councilgram* at no cost to our members. Information must be received by the second Friday of the month for inclusion in that month's publication. Please mail to the Council offices or e-mail tina@nyscoss.org.



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Wellness & Leadership

*James A. Ruck, Superintendent, Sachem CSD
Wellness Committee Member*

Improve Your Well Being With Food

In order to achieve true well being you must be cognizant of how you fuel your body every day. Most people understand the importance, believe the research and see that the results of eating well make a difference in overall performance. The difficult part for us is to be sure to eat healthy each day. Here are some simple ways to include “good for you” foods without taking away precious time from your day.

Include 5-A-Day

Some of the most important additions to your daily intake are fruits and vegetables. Research has shown that fruits and vegetables reduce the occurrence of many diseases. The magic number for each day is five. There is no simpler food to prepare or eat as a piece of fresh fruit or some baby carrots. Be sure to use the easy to eat fresh fruits and vegetables as snacks throughout your day. See <http://www.5aday.gov/index.html>.

Whole Grains

When choosing breads, pasta and rice dishes, make the decision to eat those made from whole grains. Choose wheat over white bread, brown rice over white rice. Try different grains like barley, couscous, or whole-wheat pastas. A great way to include whole grains daily is at breakfast. Try oatmeal with fruit or a whole grain cereal with low fat milk. At lunch time order or prepare your sandwich on whole wheat bread. See <http://www.livrite.com/wholegrains.htm>.

Lower Fat Intake

Here are the choices that add calories to your daily diet without even feeling them. The best way to lower the fat in your diet is to stay away from all fried foods (many fast food restaurant choices) and limit the consumption of oils, butter and other all-fat foods, like salad dressings and mayonnaise. These foods do not have to be eliminated, but should be used sparingly, in teaspoon portions.

Lowering your total fat calories decreases your daily caloric intake, which will help maintain a healthy weight. See <http://familydoctor.org/handouts/302.html>.

Maintain a Healthy Weight

Excess weight can increase your chances of heart disease, cancer, diabetes and many other weight related illnesses. The best way to maintain a healthy weight is to consume a diet containing a variety of foods, eating smaller portions and including the suggestions written above for overall well being. If you need to reduce your weight, use a sensible diet, not one that promises overnight results, or makes unbelievable claims. See <http://www.webmd.com>.

Drink Plenty of Water / Take a Multi-vitamin Every Day

Everyone needs to drink 6-8 eight-ounce glasses of water each day to keep his or her body hydrated and at peak performance levels. A daily multi-vitamin should also be taken to provide the vitamins and minerals you need each day. See <http://www.eatright.org>.

Retirements

William K. Archer General Brown CSD, 7/26/02
Oscar P. Cohen.Lexington School for the Deaf, 7/1/02
James DeRusha Port Byron CSD, 6/30/02
Bren T. Price, Sr. Pembroke CSD, 8/31/02
Lawrence Zacher Whitesboro CSD, 2/02

AASA Compliance Kits Available

New York State Discover Card Winners Selected

Restroom Sign Compliance Kits Available

Any school restroom doorway marked with a sign must be in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines 4.1.2, 4.1.3 & 4.30. These guidelines require that the restrooms have signs with Braille and raised letters/symbols. The requirement is not met by basic text restroom signs.

In response to this requirement, *the American Association of School Administrators* (AASA) now offers a **Restroom Sign Kit** which **includes** ADA compliant restroom signs that you need to replace (or, if you prefer, mount alongside) your facility's existing restroom signs. The Kit also contains mounting materials, placement specifications, and sign guidelines. All Kit guidelines have been reviewed by the federally mandated ADA Technical Assistance Center – Region V.

To obtain a Restroom Sign Kit from AASA, count the number of restrooms in your school facilities. Then, call 877-ADA-KITS (877-232-5487) or fax/send a purchase order to **ADA KIT-AASA Restroom Project**, 56 Salem Lane, Evanston, IL 60203, fax (847) 568-9485. Your Kit cost is \$20 per sign ordered plus \$9.50 S&H (for every 10 signs). When ordering, please indicate the number of “Men,” “Women” and/or “Unisex” restroom signs needed. Please specify which

signs are for restrooms that are ADA accessible to people utilizing wheelchairs - such signs will display the international symbol of accessibility, as required by law. Signs are ‘regulatory’ blue and white.

Please Note: “BOYS” and “GIRLS” Restroom signs are available at \$30.00 per sign. Signs are also available to direct people to accessible restrooms, if needed. This article contains general information and should not be relied upon as legal advice – all legal related decisions should be made only after consultation with a qualified attorney. Call (847) 568-9476 with questions.



Discover Scholarship Winners Selected

The New York State Selection Panel for the Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship Program met on Wednesday, March 13. Judges, including educational leaders, business professionals and community members selected nine winners of state-level scholarships of \$2500 each. The top winners in each of three categories will go on to national competition.

New York state winners' names will be announced in the near future.

Upcoming AASA Conferences

Rural / Small School Leaders Conference

July 14 - 17, 2002
Renaissance Harborplace Hotel
Baltimore, Maryland

Suburban School System Leaders Conference

July 21 - 24, 2002
The Providence, Rhode Island

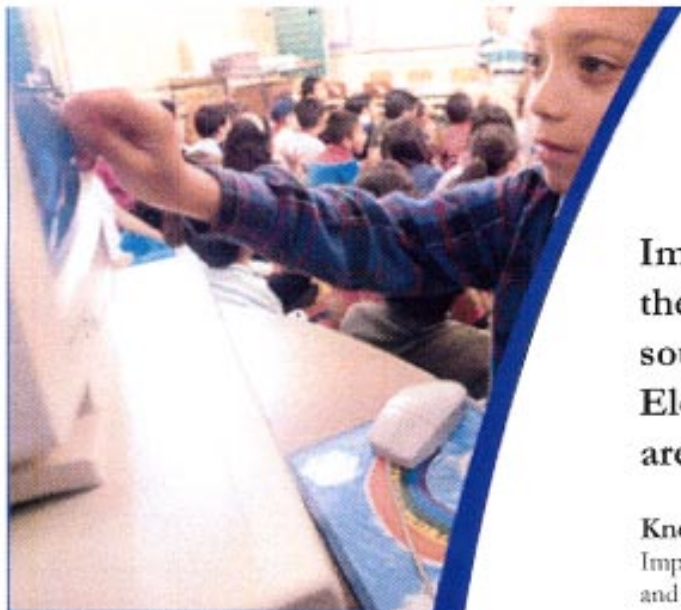
Women Administrators

November 1-3, 2002
Renaissance Mayflower Hotel
(please note the new dates)
Washington, D.C.



Future AASA Annual Conferences

2003	San Diego, February 15-17
2003	New Orleans, February 21-23
2004	San Francisco, February 20-22
2005	San Antonio, February 18-20



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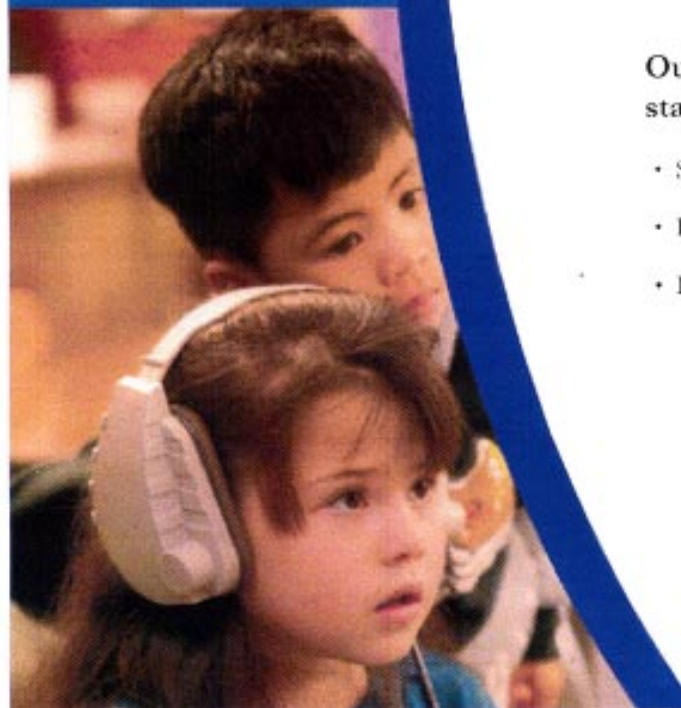
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Pressure for Full Funding of IDEA Continues *Information Disseminated to Lawmakers Proves Vital*

Relentless pressure from educators, backed by the solid, proactive efforts of House and Senate Budget Committee members, a bipartisan coalition of each chamber's budget panel feels compelled to address mandatory IDEA funding, even in the face of strong opposition by the Bush administration.

The IDEA cost estimates sent to House and Senate members, contrasting Washington's specific shortfall districts, are having the desired impact, forcing budget committee members to soften their opposition and seek help to develop a workable solution.

AASA, acting in concert with the National Education Association and the National School Boards Association, is nurturing that spirit-keeping the eye always on mandatory full funding-in meetings with the chairs and ranking opposition party leaders on both budget panels.

The AASE/NEA/NSBA plan calls for \$2.45 billion increases each year for the next six years, at the end of which the 40 percent, 1975-promised funding level will have been achieved and then sustained.

Even if Congress grants \$1 billion increases each year for the next 33 years, Washington will still be \$20 billion short of full funding in the year 2036.

Congress OKs Extension of Qualified Zone Bonds

Congress has passed the "economic stimulus" bill, which contains a two-year extension of the Qualified Zone Academy Bond program. These bonds are targeted to assist with school renovations in high-poverty areas. For more on the bonds and the program, go to the Department of Education website: <http://www.ed.gov/inits/construction/qzab.html>

State News

Continued from page 2

which provides the flexibility to offer it in 6th, 7th or 8th grades as a program assessment test. Foreign language and art remain optional.

Other News

Commissioner Mills' efforts as shuttle diplomat appear to be making headway, as both houses told NYSCOSS legislative committee members that room for compromise exists on the District Superintendent salary cap. Consensus emerged that the cap should eventually be raised to 98% of the commissioner's salary, disagreements tend to center on how quickly this new threshold should be reached, and how closely to align the benefit structure to that of school districts rather than the state.

Legislators and the Governor have bent over backwards to work with hospital and education public sector unions already this year, leading to concern that the Legislature may favorably consider either of 2 costly initiatives CSEA and PEF have been advancing. The 10-month unemployment

legislation, while pulled from the Assembly Labor Committee agenda may nevertheless resurface in budget negotiations, letting members avoid a direct vote on the initiative. Similarly, the "55/25" retirement incentive would be enormously costly and mandatory. Instead NYSCOSS members are supporting additional credit for out-of-state service, which would help all public employees with little or no cost to the state.

A bill requiring defibrillators in schools has passed both houses and will be considered by the Executive. Proponents note that had such devices been in place, at least one school child's life could have been saved. However, concern exists over the cost of the mandate and the potential liability it creates if it is used improperly or ineffectively. No word on the Governor's position yet.

CALENDAR

2002

Creating Safe Learning Spaces
April 11 Albany

Instructional Leadership
April 26 Four Sites

Instructional Leadership
May 3 Three Sites

Spring House of Delegates
May 9 Albany

Executive Committee Meeting
May 9 Albany

Commissioner's Advisory Council
May 10 Albany

Aspiring Superintendents' Workshop
May 22 & 23 Four Sites

Superintendents' Academy
May 31 Three Sites

Superintendents' Academy
June 7 Four Sites

Harvard Academy
July 21-24 Cambridge, MA

New Superintendents' Program
August 25-26 Albany

Save the Dates!

Fall Conference

October 6-8, 2002
Rochester

Mid-Winter Conference

January 12-14, 2003
Albany



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