

COUNCILGRAM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

ESEA Bill Reauthorized

Major Federal Initiatives Added, Funding Raised

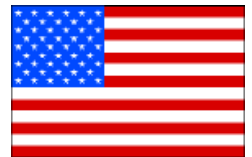
The House and Senate have now passed the compromise version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The bill will likely be viewed through the lens of history as a milestone in the expansion of the federal role in education on par with both Title I and the later Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Both Title I and IDEA sprang from the rationale that an appropriate role for the federal government in education would be to equalize educational opportunity for students disadvantaged by poverty or disability respectively. The reauthorization of ESEA creates a new and more expansive theory of federal involvement: that the federal government has a role to play in holding schools accountable for results for all students.

As a result, the bill requires states to implement annual testing for students in grades 3-8 by the year 2005-06. While states may develop tests aligned to state standards, students' scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) must closely parallel the state scores or the exams will be considered invalid. Schools must close the achievement gap in math and reading proficiency for all students in 12 years. States are required to develop methodologies for defining Adequate Yearly Progress toward this goal — one of the sticking points of the federal debate. As is already the case in New York, schools will also be assessed on subpopulations.

Continued on page 15



**OVER 100 YEARS OF
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**



**DECEMBER, 2001
VOLUME IV; ISSUE 4**

Middle School Testing Summit Held

Schedule, Obstacles, Quality and Impact Discussed

In response to the number of concerns raised regarding middle school testing, the State Education Department recently convened a meeting with representatives from the educational community including superintendents, teachers, principals and non-public school officials. The middle school testing schedule and possible alternatives was the intended topic for discussion at the summit. However, some participants raised other issues relating to the tests, including the idea that there are simply too many at the middle school level and that some of the tests were of limited value.

Anecdotal evidence on the testing program and its impact on students were shared by attendees. While some believe the tests have generated resources for subject areas once overlooked, many identified obstacles with the current testing system. The loss of instructional time due to teacher classroom absences for testing purposes and delays in the release of grading information from the State were cited as highly problematic.

Although not receptive to participant recommendations that would eliminate tests, Department staff expressed a willingness to explore other alternatives.

Continued on page 2

Inside

State News
National News
Council News
AASA News
Member News
Openings

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

7 ELK STREET, THIRD FLOOR
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207
518/449-1063
FAX 518/426-2229
WWW.NYSCOSS.ORG

Robert L. Loretan, *Executive Director*
Thomas L. Rogers, *Deputy Director*
Kelly O. Masline, *Associate Director*
Kristen M. Epifanio, *Assistant Director*
Tina Hogle, *Assistant Director*



PRESIDENT

William H. Johnson
Rockville Centre

OFFICERS

David A. Paciencia, *President-Elect*
Taconic Hills

James N. Mills, *Vice-President*
Silver Creek

William J. Brosnan, *Treasurer*
Northport-E. Northport

Donald B. Trombley, *Past President*
Corning-Painted Post

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Angelo Gimondo
NYC District #30

Leslie G. Loomis
Bethlehem

Josephine N. Moffett
Greenburgh Seven

Marilyn O. Pirkle
Rondout Valley

Diane E. Reed
Honeoye Falls-Lima

Sylvia A. Root
Potsdam

Robert J. Service
Mohawk

Ronald Smalls
Hawthorne-Cedar Knolls

Stephen J. Uebbing
Canandaigua

Continued from page 1

One such alternative included the continuation of the five tests, two (ELA and math) for the purpose of evaluating individual student performance, while the remaining three tests would be used to examine a sampling of students to evaluate school district programs. Still others offered a variation on the

program evaluation concept and proposed amendments to the current testing schedule. While it is not certain what will result from the summit, it is clear that the educational community believes significant changes must be made to the existing testing program.

55-64 Phase-Out?

Sup's Advocate for Three Year Window

The impending increase of the required score on Regents examinations to a 65 continues to be a concern for superintendents statewide. At the most recent Commissioner's Advisory Council meeting, superintendents advocated for a three year continuation of the "safety net" citing more time was needed for school districts to make the necessary foundational changes required to create a standards-based system. This timeframe would require the first group of student assessed in the 4th grade to perform at a level of 65 or above on the Regents exam.

Recently released data from SED on the 1997 student cohort appears to bolster support for the continuation of the 55-64 scoring category. The information revealed that approximately 34,000 or 23.9% of general education students in the cohort either did not take the English

Regents exam or scored below a 65, while roughly 31,000 students or 21.4% did not take the math Regents exam or scored below a 65. Although some improvements were seen when comparing the 1996 and 1997 cohorts, it remains that a large number of students, particularly in urban and high needs rural districts appear to be at risk of not reaching the new graduation requirements.

The Regents are continuing discussions of the 55-64 issue as a policy matter. It appears the concern is balancing realistic expectations for rates of change in large systems with the need to set ambitious targets as motivation. An ad hoc NYSCOSS committee is currently working on developing a rationale for maintaining the low pass for 3 more years, while maintaining momentum by holding systems accountable for progress.

See page 13 for more State News...

Wellness & Leadership

*Oliver N. Blaise, Jr., Chairman
NYSCOSS Wellness Committee*

School leaders need to be strong and stay strong! They are the symbols of their organizations. The members of your Wellness Committee know that "Wellness is a Leadership Issue".

As you begin 2002 remember that there are "Four Pillars of Wellness". They are diet, exercise, rest and reflection. If you have not attended to these areas in the past, think about doing this now.

Diet needs to be monitored regularly. Eat low fat foods, and watch your total caloric intake. Exercise should be a regular part of your life. This can be accomplished by doing something as

simple as taking a daily walk. Make this a part of your everyday schedule. Rest means getting eight hours or more of sleep each night. Reflection means giving yourself time to contemplate and think. For many people this can come from taking a long walk, listening to music, going to church, or simply being alone.

All of these areas have an expanded explanation. If you have questions, call a member of your Wellness Committee and we will connect you with the right information. Be a leader, and take charge by following these few wellness tips as a regular part of your life!

Stay strong in 2002!

Supts' Academy Offers New Program

Focus on Instructional Leadership, Education Reform

The Superintendents' Academy faculty has worked with a consultant throughout this past year to develop the **Instructional Leadership Academy**. The Instructional Leadership Academy will be offered to all active NYSCOSS members (Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents) and will address issues such as learning and educational reform, strategies for providing instructional leadership, and opportunities for

collegial interaction and support. The program will be offered in several locations throughout the state on the following dates:

April 26, 2002
Capital District
Long Island
Western New York

May 3, 2002
Central New York
Lower Hudson
North Country
Southern Tier

NYSCOSS & School Boards Come Together

Common Issues, Concerns Identified and Discussed

On December 6, 2001, the Officers and Executive Committees of NYSCOSS and NYSSBA held a joint meeting to identify and discuss issues affecting education.

The leadership of the organizations re-viewed the timely topics of standards, testing, and the state budget. There was a



great deal of discussion from representatives of both organizations about the ways that these issues can and should be approached in order to ensure that all children receive quality education. Several specific recommendations were made which will be further addressed at future meetings.

BDA BEARDSLEY DESIGN ASSOCIATES

Architecture, Engineering & Landscape Architecture, P.C.



Opening Celebration



Willink Middle School
Webster Central School District
Webster, New York

Beardsley Design Associates
has provided **high efficiency**
sustainable designs for over 103 years.

If you are attending the New York State Council of School Superintendents
Mid-Winter Conference,

Please join us at our seminar:

Planning Learning Environments for the 21st Century

Long Range Planning & Five Year Capital Facilities Planning

January 14, 2002

10:00AM-10:45AM

Highstreet, Room 26

www.beardsley.com

Office Locations:

64 South Street, Auburn, NY 13021 • 315-253-7301

126 West Main Street, Malone, NY

431 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, NY



Good News From Our Members...

National Honor Awarded to Pearl River UFSD

Pearl River UFSD has been named a winner of the Malcom Baldrige Award, the nation's highest honor for organizational excellence. The annual award is presented by the President of the United States to organizations demonstrating excellence in quality and continuous improvement.

Richard Maurer, Superintendent of Pearl River, states, "We are honored to be one of the first districts to be given the Malcom Baldrige Award." This is the first year that winners of the National Education Quality Award were named.

Pearl River was cited for increasing the percentage of students graduating with a Regents diplomas while at the same time, decreasing pupil expenditures. Dr. Maurer states, "We found the process very valuable in achieving significant improvements in student achievement and business office functions."

Significant Bond Referendums Passed

The Council is pleased to note the passage of two recent bond votes. The Albany City School District, led by Superintendent Lonnie Palmer, has long been in need of upgrades to facilities. City voters overwhelmingly passed a \$175 million building renovation project for the city's schools.

In addition, Superintendent Dodge Watkins reports that the Haverstraw-Stony Point referendum passed by over 700 votes.

Partnership Created in Skaneateles

In a creative approach to solving the Town of Skaneateles highway storage problem and the School District's bus garage problem, a partnership was created by the Town of Skaneateles and the School District for a joint transportation center. The school district will be the owner of the facility and the Town of Skaneateles will provide lease payments for 20 years, after which time there will be joint ownership of the facility.

Superintendent Walter J. Sullivan noted that the community of Skaneateles approved this creative approach to consolidation of resources by more than a 3-1 vote.

Chief School Officer Appointments

Dominic F. Bagetta, A.S. H-F-M BOCES, 3/1/01
Superintendent of Wheelerville UFSD

Marilyn Barry ChathamCSD, 2/1/02
Superintendent of Berkshire UFSD

Charlotte Gregory, A. Dansville CSD, 11/28/01

Josephine Kehoe-Wood, I. Bloomfield CSD, 11/1/01
Retired Life Member

Gerard O'Sullivan Brookfield CSD, 1/1/02
Principal of Waterville Middle School

Tiffany L. Phillips, A. Lansing CSD, 11/1/01
Superintendent from Bloomfield CSD

Jeffrey Roudebush Clinton CSD, 2/11/02
Superintendent from Hancock, CSD

Bruce Sharpe DeRuyter CSD, 4/30/02
Union Springs High School

Ray VanNess Cassadaga Valley CSD, 2/1/02
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Marie Warchol, D.S. Otsego-N.Catskills, 12/10/01
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

A. = Acting I. = Interim

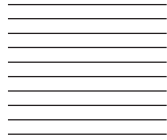
A.S. = Assistant Superintendent

Retirements

Roger Gorham Ballston Spa CSD, 8/1/02

Brian Jordan Cassadaga Valley CSD, 2/1/02

James Sheehan Sweet Home CSD, 6/30/02



***“As we rebuild
NY City, NY
State and our
economy, I be-
lieve we will be
doing so through
the hands and
hearts of our
BOCES educa-
tionally-trained
young people.
Their vocational
programs are the
foundation for
our economy.”***

David Paciencia

*from comments at
BOCES Conference*

BOCES Services Applauded *David Paciencia Speaks at Conference*

Education was the focus of remarks offered by David Paciencia, Superintendent of Taconic Hills and President-Elect of NYSCOSS, at the 2nd Annual BOCES Conference in Saratoga Springs in November, 2001.

Conference participants discussed ways for BOCES to continue to contribute in the new standards-based environ-

ment, and discussed the impact of budget and salary caps on the institution's future.

“BOCES is about education programs for kids and for staff that are meaningful, of high quality, up-to-date, cost effective, service-related and that meet all modern day standards,” said Paciencia “To not support a BOCES is to not support a kid!”

In Memoriam

Colleagues, family and friends mourned the passing of Edward J. Furletti, former superintendent of Red Creek CSD and interim superintendent for Geneseo BOCES, who passed away quietly at his home on Monday, November 12, 2001. Through his talents of grant writing and fiscal responsibility, Dr. Furletti created a system which provided his community with a quality academic based program. In addition to his commitment to education, Dr. Furletti was involved in a number of community projects and organizations that continue to improve the quality of life in the Red Creek area today.

Dr. Furletti is survived by his wife, Marion Higman Furletti of Red Creek and four sons.

Richard C. Bonen, of Middletown, NY, died on November 14, 2001 at Westchester County Medical Center, Valhalla. He was 60. He began his administrative career on Long Island and later was appointed the first principal of Warwick Valley Middle School. In addition, he served in Middletown School District as Assistant Superintendent and later as Superintendent of Schools on Long Island. He was gifted in his skill with technology, enjoyed collecting classic cars and had a good sense of humor. Above all, he pursued his goals and dreams, and inspired others to do the same.

Survivors include his wife, Mary at home; and two sons, Matthew of Frederick, Maryland, and Michael of Boston.



Einhorn Yaffee Prescott
ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING, P.C.

...designing
for tomorrow
today

Contact: rlopez@eypae.com

ALBANY
412 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207
518.431.3300

NEW YORK
440 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016
917.981.6100

www.eypae.com

Superintendencies

BALLSTON SPA CSD

Gerald Carozza \$Competitive
 District Superintendent Enr: 4,423
 Wash.-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES Reply by:
 10 LaCrosse Street 2/1/02
 Husdon Falls, NY 12839-1415

BINGHAMTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vincent Coppola \$125,000-\$140,000
 Western NY Educational Service Council Enr: 6,500
 SUNY at Buffalo Reply by:
 222 Baldy Hall 1/18/02
 Buffalo, NY 14260-1000

BLOOMFIELD CSD

Richard Castallo \$120,000-\$130,000
 Castallo & Silky Enr: 1,200
 P.O. Box 100 Reply by:
 Syracuse, NY 13215 2/22/02

CANISTEO CSD

R.L. Bouchard \$90,000-\$110,000
 Steuben-Allegany BOCES Enr: 945
 6985 Technology Way, PO Box 586 Reply by:
 Hornell, NY 14843-0586 12/21/01

CHITTENANGO CSD

Richard Castallo \$115,000-\$135,000
 Castallo & Silky Enr: 2,700
 P.O. Box 100 Reply by:
 Syracuse, NY 13215 3/15/02

ELMIRA HEIGHTS CSD

Robert J. Reidy, Jr. \$92,000-\$97,000
 SCT BOCES Enr: 1,300
 459 Philo Road Reply by:
 Elmira, NY 14903-1093 12/21/01

ELMSFORD UFSD

Vincent Beni up to \$165,000
 Focus Consulting Associates Enr: N/A
 P.O. Box 516 Reply by:
 Carmel, NY 10512 12/21/01

HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ann P. Myers \$100,000-\$120,000
 c/o Office of the District Superintendent Enr: 2,380
 10 Empire State Boulevard Reply by:
 Castleton, NY 12033 3/1/02

LA FAYETTE CSD

Richard Castallo \$100,000-\$120,000
 Castallo & Silky Enr: 1,134
 P.O. Box 100 Reply by:
 Syracuse, NY 13215 1/25/02

LAKE GEORGE CSD

Gerald Carozza \$110,000-\$120,000
 District Superintendent Enr: 1,088
 Wash.-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES Reply by:
 10 LaCrosse Street 3/1/02
 Husdon Falls, NY 12839-1415

LANSING CSD

William Whitehill & Lucy Martin \$110,000-\$120,000
 University Search Associates Enr: 1,300
 Office of Professional Development Reply by:
 250 Huntington Hall 2/18/02
 Syracuse University
 Syracuse, NY 13244-2340

LINDENHURST UFSD

H.A.S. Consulting \$Competitive
 P.O. Box 38 Enr: 7,640
 Merrick, NY 11566 Reply by:
 12/21/01

NISKAYUNA CSD

Barbara Nagler, District Supt. \$135,000
 Capital Region BOCES Enr: 4,178
 1031 Watervliet-Shaker Road Reply by:
 Albany, NY 12205-2106 12/31/01

ROCKLAND BOCES

Vincent Beni SN/A
 Focus Consulting Associates Enr: N/A
 P.O. Box 516 Reply by:
 Carmel, NY 10512 ASAP

SALMON RIVER CSD

David DeSantis, District Supt. \$95,000-\$110,000
 Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES Enr: 1,551
 P.O. Box 28 Reply by:
 Malone, NY 12953 12/28/01

SWEET HOME CSD

New York State School Boards Association \$Competitive
 119 Washington Avenue Enr: 3,863
 Albany, NY 12210 Reply by:
 1/25/02

WESTHILL CSD

William Silky/Larry Pedersen \$128,000-\$148,000
 Castallo & Silky Enr: 2,100
 P.O. Box 100 Reply by:
 Syracuse, NY 13215 1/14/02

WHITNEY POINT CSD

Vincent Coppola \$120,000-\$130,000
 Western NY Educational Service Council Enr: 2,100
 SUNY at Buffalo Reply by:
 222 Baldy Hall 1/11/02
 Buffalo, NY 14260

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

Superintendent: Window Rock Unified School District #8, Navajo Nation, AZ. Enr: 3,016. By: 1/18/02. \$76,000.

Superintendent: Seligman Unified School District, Seligman, AZ. Enr: 180. By: 1/18/02. \$Competitive.

Superintendent: Laveen Elementary School District #59, Laveen, AZ. Enr: 1,576. By: 1/25/02. \$Competitive.

Superintendent: Peoria Public School District #150, Peoria, IL. Enr: 16,000. By: 3/12/02. \$150,000.

Superintendent: Pewamo-Westphalia Community Schools, Pewamo, MI. Enr: 697. By: 1/11/02. \$76,000.

Superintendent: Wyomissing Area School District, Wyomissing, PA. Enr: 1,800. By: 1/25/02. \$Competitive.

Superintendent: Ridgewood School District, Bergen County, NJ. Enr: 5,200. By: 1/15/02. \$Competitive.

Superintendent: Warrensville Heights City SD, Columbus, OH. Enr: 2,969. By: 1/18/02. \$Competitive.

Superintendent: Little Egg Harbor Township SD, Ocean County, NJ. Enr: 1,700. By: 2/1/02. \$Competitive.

Superintendent: Ridgewood SD, Bergen County, IL. Enr: 5,200. By: 7/1/02. \$Highly competitive.

Superintendent: Tenaflly Public School District, Tenaflly, NJ. Enr: 2900. By: 1/18/02. \$Competitive.

Superintendent: School Administrative Unit #6, Claremont, Cornish and Unity, NH. Enr: 2000. By: ASAP. \$90,000's BOE.

Other NYS Administrative Positions (Contact District For Further Information)

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction: Berkshire UFSD. Enr: N/A. By: 1/25/02. \$82,000-\$87,000.

Business Administrator: Delhi CSD. Enr: 1,160. By: 2/1/02. \$75,000-\$80,000.

Assistant Principal: Webster Schroeder High School, Webster CSD. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.

Principal: Kent Primary School, Carmel CSD. Enr: 550. By: 1/7/02. \$96,000-\$100,000.

Assistant Principal: George Fischer Middle School, Carmel CSD. Enr: 1,600. By: 1/7/02. \$84,000-\$88,000.

Assistant District Superintendent for Instructional Services: Capital Region BOCES. Enr: N/A. By: 1/30/02. \$100,000.

Director of Human Resources: Capital Region BOCES. Enr: N/A. By: 1/23/02. \$Competitive.

Director of Special Education Services: Depew Union Free School District. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.

Principal: Windsor Central School District. Enr: N/A. By: 12/28/01. \$Competitive.

Elementary Principal: Tonawanda City School District. Enr: N/A. By: 2/1/02. \$65,000-\$75,000.

High School Principal: Tonawanda City School District. Enr: N/A. By: 2/1/02. \$85,000-\$95,000.

Supervisor of Special Education: Otsego-Northern Catskill BOCES. Enr: N/A. By: 12/31/01. \$60,000-\$70,000.

Assistant Superintendent for Administration: Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES. Enr: 44,000. By: 1/1/02. \$90,000s.

Deputy Superintendent: Southern Westchester BOCES. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$130,000-\$160,000.

Principal: Clayton A. Bouton Junior-Senior High School, Boorheesville CSD. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.

Director of Admissions: City University of New York. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$75,000-\$100,000.

High School Principal: Locust Valley CSD. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$112,876-\$137,730.

Supervisor of Special Education (2 Positions): Otsego-Northern Catskills BOCES. Enr: N/A. \$Based on experience.

Send Us Your News

Share your successes with your colleagues! Send us news of your bond vote victories, grant awards, successful programs and personal triumphs.

The Council will gladly post your good tidings in Member News. We look forward to hearing from you.

Why NYEdJobs.org?

- A free service for job seekers.
- Create a searchable Personal Profile highlighting your qualifications and experience.
- Choose to enroll publicly or confidentially (contact information withheld).

No more missing deadlines!

- Quickly and easily modify your Personal Profile.
- Find a job posting that interests you, and, with a click of a button, send your Personal Profile and resume to the district contact.
- Detailed District Profiles allow users to quickly learn more about a school district and its community.

Districts can find you!

- Districts can conduct searches of Personal Profiles and view resumes posted.
- NYEdJobs.org has grown out of the former Job Network Information Service – a reputable and familiar service used by districts for years.



NYEdJobs.org, the state edition of

USA EdJobs.org

NYEdJobs.org allows candidates to focus on identifying job opportunities that match personal criteria and allows districts to efficiently identify qualified candidates.

Finally, an online career center for all education professionals.

www.NYEdJobs.org

Dodge R. Watkins Named Director

Reading Initiative for At-Risk Students Launched

The National Center for Education Research and Technology (NCERT) has appointed Dodge R. Watkins, Superintendent of North Rockland County CSD, as a Director of the NCERT National Reading Initiative.

This Pre K-12 project will contain multiple components, designed to develop and sustain systemic changes in the area of reading instruction. The goal of the project is to inform, train and assist teachers in the implementation of research-based methodologies on how children learn to read. The project components are as follows:

National Reading Panel Network

This network, comprised of literacy leaders from each district in the consortium, will engage in a professional dialogue which will result in the sharing of exemplars of evidence-based instructional practices.

National Reading Academy

Cadres of classroom teachers as well as curriculum and instruction specialists will participate in focused and ongoing professional development based on scientifically validated reading research. The model will include in-depth training in a practicum model, ongoing

electronic networking and teleconferencing. Pre-test and Post-test data will be collected and analyzed in a longitudinal study of the effectiveness of the implementation strategies.

Reading Policymaker's Network

School Board members from each participating NCERT district will learn about the NRP recommendations as well as other current reading research findings, and will have an opportunity to develop policy based on this sound educational research.

NCERT is a national organization of superintendents from more than 65 school districts.

John Falco Honored for Technology Model

Named by NYSCATE as "Outstanding Superintendent"

The New York State Association for Computers and Technology (NYSCATE) named Dr. John Falco as "Outstanding Superintendent" at its annual conference in November 2001. Seventeen hundred educators from across the state participated in the conference, at which Dr. Falco was presented with the award.

Dr. Falco was recognized for his success in transforming the Schenectady City School District into a model for technology integration. Central to Dr.

Falco's vision for technology integration was a clear commitment to student achievement and comprehensive professional development for every teacher. Every classroom in the Schenectady City School District is wired for Internet and video stream access. Students in all grade levels and across all subject areas use technology on a daily basis.

In April 2000, the District was awarded a \$10 million U.S. Department of Education Technology Innovation Chal-

lenge Grant. Additionally, Dr. Falco worked in partnership with the school board to secure a \$22 million technology bond issue to provide for hardware, software, infrastructure and professional development to bring Schenectady City Schools into the 21st Century.

According to Schenectady School Board President Lawrence M. Murphy, Jr., "Dr. Falco's vision for technology in our district has changed the very nature of learning in the classroom."

No Mandatory IDEA Funding This Year

Members Urged to Continue Pressure, Complete Survey

Extrême disappointment was expressed by AASA over the removal of IDEA mandatory funding from the final version of H.R. 1. However, with key lawmakers—including House Education Committee Chair John Boehner, R-Ohio—expressing support for mandatory full funding in the context of the renewal of IDEA in 2002, the application of coordinated national pressure, beginning in January, may force the issue into the federal budget. Once funds sufficient to accomplish mandatory IDEA are ensconced in Congress' spending blueprint, the road to success in 2002 becomes ever more certain. Both the education program and spending bills contain the President's \$1 billion reading program, as well as a newly-crafted and more flexible Title II, with \$3.1 billion.

While the Class Size Reduction program will be discontinued, the flexible Title II grants are expected to allow sufficient funds to retain teachers added under the Class Size program. There will also be considerable flexibility in transferring funds between federal accounts, except money earmarked for IDEA, vocational education and Title I. Money may be moved into, but not out of Title I.

Members were instrumental in forcing a remarkable discussion in Washington on full funding of IDEA. In order to build on that momentum, the AASA Federal Policy and Legislation Committee (FPL) asks for help in reaching decisions on special education issues.



The AASA FPL will meet January 11 and 12 in Washington to develop the AASA Legislative Agenda for 2002. The AASA Legislative Corps Action Seminar takes place in conjunction with the committee meeting on January 11. Responses to the following questions will be used to generate a list of priorities for the Policy Committee to consider.

In one sentence, describe the top three items, you would like to see changed in IDEA, in the context of full funding. Divide 100 points among those three items and include mandatory full funding as a fourth option to receive points.

In addition, please list the top three items you would like to see retained in the law.

- The three changes I want to see in IDEA are:
 1. _____ Points
 2. _____ Points
 3. _____ Points
- Mandatory Full Funding of IDEA _____ Points
- Total 100 Points

- The three items I would like to see retained in IDEA are:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

Mail to:
 American Association of School Administrators
 Legislative Corps
 1801 No. Moore Street
 Arlington, VA 22209

Phone: (703) 875-0700
 Fax: (703) 528-2146

E-mail to:
govrel@aasa.org

Visit the
NYSCOSS Website
Make us your start-up page:
www.nyscoss.org

New Field Trip Requirements

Written Permission from Parents Provides Alternative

The Governor recently signed legislation requiring parents to provide school districts with written notice if their child wishes to return from a school district sponsored extracurricular event using an alternative to the district transportation provided. The legislation amended a law signed early this year, which requires school districts to provide students with return transportation from an extracurricular event back to either the point of departure or the appropriate school, unless intervening circumstances make the travel impractical. In such circumstances, a school district representative must remain with the child until the parent has been notified and the child delivered to the parent.

Although the original legislation was not intended to deny parents the right to make alternative travel arrangements for their child, the Governor expressed concern in his approval message regarding the lack of flexibility afforded to parents and educators making such arrangements. In response to the concerns that this interpretation would have on school district activities, a chapter amendment was passed and signed into law. A parent now has the ability to permit his or her child to use an alternative form of return transportation provided written authorization is given to the school district.

Creating Safe Learning Spaces

13



April 11, 2002
Holiday Inn Turf
Wolf Road, Albany
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Following Through on Projects

- Reporting Requirements
- (Re-)Financing Options/Impact of New Aid Formulas

Creating Safe School Environments

- School Security
- Fingerprinting/SAVE
- Fostering a Safe School Climate

Jointly Sponsored by NYSCCOSS and NYSASBO

AON

Insure your vision

Our Employee Benefit Services include:

Strategy development, Plan design, Vendor selection and performance, Implementation, and Communication, as well as Ongoing consulting.

Strategy Development

Aon Consulting assists you by identifying objectives, creating critical paths to reach these objectives, and developing methods to measure performance.

Plan Design

Whether your strategy is to contain or reduce costs, design benefits to attract and retain employees, or to continue a traditional benefits program, Aon Consulting can help ensure that the plans you sponsor support your strategy to the fullest.

Vendor/Insurance Carrier Selection And Performance

Aon Consulting has a comprehensive database of health care organizations with detailed financial, quality, management, and member satisfaction results. Our consultants have access to this information at their desktops, and can use it to determine the best matches for your organization. In addition, we can use this data to set the terms and benchmarks for performance goals and risk contracts.

In conjunction with our databases, Aon Consulting's national electronic RFP process allows our consultants to focus on **negotiating fees, service standards, and contractual terms.**

Implementation And Communication

Implementing a change requires education and enrollment activity. Timely and concise communication materials let employees know what's coming, how it will affect them personally, and what they need to do to accommodate the change. Aon Consulting has an award-winning Organizational Communication practice that can assist with any of these programs.

For More Information

For more information about Aon Consulting's Employee Benefit Services, please:

Call us at 315-451-5511

Visit us on the World Wide Web at www.aonconsulting.com

Continued from page 1

Schools that fail to make adequate progress will receive technical assistance funds (these grants will initially total \$500 million), but be required to permit public school choice for students in the failing school. Supplemental services will have to be provided for students in the school. Each year thereafter, progressively more severe penalties are imposed up to reconstitution/restructuring after 5 consecutive years of non-improvement. In schools already considered poor performers, parents could receive tutoring or transportation funds for their children as early as the fall.

In exchange for this strict accountability, federal aid is increased from \$18 billion to \$26.5 billion for the 2002 budget year, which began Oct. 1. In addition, certain “trigger” levels of aid are included — if the federal government fails to provide sufficient aid (\$490 million in the coming year), the testing requirements are not triggered. Aid for reading programs is tripled to nearly \$1 billion per year for the next 5 years to ensure that every child can read by grade 3.

The bill requires states to ensure that within four years all teachers are qualified to teach in their subject area. States could require teachers to pass subject tests or major in their field in college. If a teacher isn't qualified to teach in his or her subject

area, a school would be required to send a letter notifying parents. New York-style report cards would not only show test scores, but the percentage of qualified teachers.

Perhaps to build enough votes for passage, the bill appears to contain something for everyone. New aid is provided to build new charter schools and help existing ones and it permits churches or other religious groups to provide tutoring and after-school programs.

The bill has not been without its detractors. New York State Education Commissioner Richard Mills and Chancellor Carl Hayden have both lobbied vigorously against the bill's overbearing testing provisions. Others have argued against the broad expansion of the federal role in what had been the exclusive province of the states.

Despite the bill's evident political popularity, many congressional members voted against it, because of the last minute failure of the Congress to begin to meet its goal of finally fully funding IDEA. Mandatory funding that would have raised federal funds to 40% of the actual excess costs of special education died after a particularly close vote.

AASA has released a detailed analysis of the bill which is available on the NYSCOSS website: www.nyscoss.org.

Public Attitude Toward Public Schools

National Poll Shows Positive Results

For the first time in the 33-year history of the PhiDeltaKappa/Gallup Poll of the public's attitudes toward the public schools, a majority of respondents assign either an A or a B to the schools in their communities, *Phi Delta Kappan* reported in September. The percentage of A's and B's rises from 51% for all respondents to 62% for public school parents and to 68% when these same parents are asked to grade the school their oldest child attends.

Poll findings confirm the decline in support for using public money to fund attendance at private or church-related schools, and indicate the public is relatively uninformed on charter schools.

When asked to identify the biggest problems

facing schools in their communities, respondents named lack of school funding and lack of discipline.

Data about high-stakes testing is somewhat conflictual, with 66% believing that standardized tests should be used to guide instruction while only 30% believe such tests should be used to measure student learning. Interestingly, 53% favor the use of a single standardized test to determine promotion from grade to grade, while 45% are opposed. The issue is further blurred by the fact that 65% believe student achievement should be measured by classroom work and homework, while only 31% would rely on testing.

CALENDAR

2002

Mid-Winter Conference
Jan. 13-15 Albany

Executive Committee Meeting
Jan. 31 Albany

Commissioner's Advisory Council
Feb. 1 Albany

AASA National Conference on Education
Feb. 15-17 San Diego, CA

Executive Committee Meeting
March 7 Albany

Commissioner's Advisory Council
March 8 Albany

Creating Safe Learning Spaces
April 11 Albany

Instructional Leadership
April 26 Seven Sites

Executive Committee Meeting
May 9 Albany

Commissioner's Advisory Council
May 10 Albany

New Superintendents' Leadership Program
May 31 Three Sites

Superintendents' Academy
June 7 Seven Sites

**Wishing You a Safe, Healthy
and Happy New Year**



**NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF
SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS**

7 ELK STREET, THIRD FLOOR
ALBANY, NY 12207-1002