

# COUNCILGRAM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

## Council, SAANYS Win \$7.5M Grant *Gates Foundation Boosts Leadership Development*

A partnership between NYSCOSS, the School Administrators Association of New York State, the State Education Department and the Governor's Office has secured a leadership grant of \$7.5 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The grant, the largest of its kind yet awarded by the foundation's State Challenge Grants for Leadership Development program, aims to provide state-of-the-art professional development to superintendents and principals, with a

focus on whole-systems improvement and technology integration.

The coalition of NYSCOSS and SAANYS, with the full support of SED and its regional Leadership Academies, will use the funds to launch NY TALKS (Technology, Achievement, Leadership, Knowledge and Skills). The program was designed to complement the state's education reform, focusing on higher standards and achievement.

The organizations will provide dynamic, hands-on learning opportunities

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## Fingerprinting Law: *Amendments Allow Conditional Hiring*

In an effort to address disruptions in the school district hiring process, the Senate passed legislation amending the fingerprinting law by creating a three-tier criminal clearance system (S. 3148B). The legislation, passed by the Assembly last month (A.8898A), gives school districts the authority to hire employees pending

issuance of criminal clearance by the State Education Department. The bill creates the following process.

### **Tier 1: Emergency Clearance—**

Where a school district has a vacancy that qualifies as an emergency vacancy, it may appoint an employee, who has signed a statement attesting to his criminal

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## Organizations Meet the Press *Council, NYSSBA Discuss Impact of Late Budget*

Last week, the Council and New York State School Boards Association co-hosted a luncheon for members of the media to discuss the impact of a late state budget on school districts. Over 20 representatives of print, radio and television news media attended. Discus-

sions focused on the quandary school districts are placed in when a state budget is not adopted on time.

NYSCOSS and NYSSBA explained to reporters that school districts first felt the impact of the late state budget back in May, when communities voted on their

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**OVER 100 YEARS OF  
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

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**JULY, 2001  
VOLUME III; ISSUE 11**

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## NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

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## State Heads Toward Record Leaders on Track for Latest Budget Ever

Facing the latest state budget ever, the Governor and the Legislature are attempting to jump-start negotiations by limiting the budget extenders to one week.

The budget extender passed as the Councilgram went to press will expire on July 22, the shortest spending bill adopted since the lapse of the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Although this movement may appear promising, spending proposals by the Governor, the Senate and the Assembly remain vastly different. Citing concern for the state's future fiscal condition, the Governor continues to promote a conservative budget, increasing education spending by \$382 million. The Senate and Assembly propose additional spending of \$925 million and

\$1.7 billion respectively.

As a result, the leaders continue their verbal jousting in the media. The Senate has now held eight conference committee meetings, urging the Assembly to come to the table and begin negotiations. The Assembly, meanwhile, maintains that the Governor must be a party to any negotiations in order for the meetings to be productive. Fully aware that the record for the latest state budget will be broken as of August 5, the Legislature and Governor remain at an impasse. Insiders say staff have now focused energies on what measures can be taken that will allow the state—and more specifically, school districts—to operate without disruption and *without* a state budget.

### Press

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school budgets. With state aid amounts up in the air, districts had to estimate conservatively in preparing their budgets. This estimation game has forced school districts to curtail programs and delay hiring employees, both of which have had a particularly adverse effect on low-wealth school districts, where state aid constitutes a large percentage of the budgets.

The second hit on school districts will occur when they prepare tax warrants, the organizations explained. Most districts have until September 1 to issue their warrants, while schools in Nassau County must do so by

August 15. Since Nassau districts may not know their state aid figures when preparing warrants, they may be forced to either raise taxes or eliminate school programs. Either action will erode credibility and relations with the communities they serve.

Both the Council and School Boards Association agreed that the process the Legislature and Governor are employing to reach a budget agreement is not working. The three state leaders must devise a process that will generate a budget sooner and cease to interfere with school districts' efforts to educate children.

## Conference Features Elegant Banquet

### *Renowned Hall of Springs Hosts Stylish Affair*

**F**all Conference 2001, "High Standards: Other Dimensions" includes an elegant Annual Banquet Monday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the magnificent Hall of Springs.

One of the most beautiful buildings in America, the Hall of Springs is famous for its marble floor, cherry woodwork and silver and crystal chandeliers.

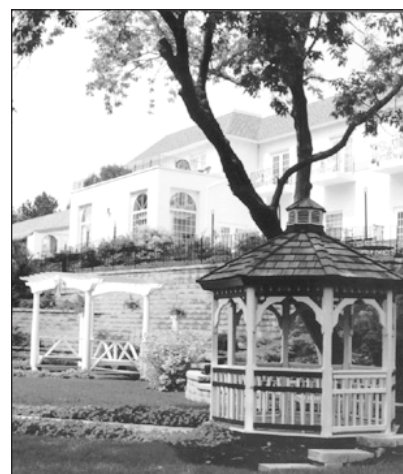
The Council invites members to attend the banquet, honoring the Distinguished Service Award recipient and the incoming and outgoing NYSCOSS presidents. The President's Reception will precede the banquet at The Sheraton, and bus service will be provided to the Hall of Springs.

Cost to attend the banquet is \$40 per person, free for 2001 retirees. Jackets are required for gentlemen.

The conference takes place Sunday to Tuesday, September 30 to October 2, at

The Sheraton, Saratoga Springs. With prominent keynote speakers, informative displays and engaging sessions, the conference provides a valuable professional development opportunity. It is also a prime occasion for meeting and networking with colleagues from throughout the state.

Watch the mail for conference registration materials. Tuition is payable by check or purchase order. Credit cards may not be used for conference tuition. Room reservations may be made with a credit card or a \$90 deposit payable to The Sheraton. This does not guarantee a room at the host hotel, but will be credited to the hotel to which you are assigned.



*The Hall of Springs*

## Academy for New Superintendents Planned

### *Council, SED Offer Guidance to Newest Members*

**N**YSCOSS extends an invitation to superintendents who are new to the position or to New York State, to attend a conference co-sponsored by the Council and the State Education Department.

The program is scheduled for Sunday and Monday, August 26 and 27, 2001 in

Albany.

With leadership talks, round table discussions, meals and receptions, the conference gives new superintendents the chance to learn from veterans in the field.

For more information, call NYSCOSS at (518) 449-1063.

## New York Hosts Executive Directors' Retreat

**M**ore than 30 states were represented at the Association of State Executive Directors' Retreat July 13 to 15, 2001 in Saratoga Springs.

New York State was selected as the site for this year's retreat, which rotates

across the country from year to year.

The executive directors discussed national education issues and shared ideas for the operation of their state associations, which serve educational leaders.

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# Group Names Leaders, Rewards Scholars

## *Lower Hudson Superintendents Honor Top Students*

The Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents announced its slate of officers for 2001-02. They are: President **Bruce Dennis** of Bedford CSD, Vice President **Jason P. Friedman** of East Ramapo CSD, Secretary **Vincent T. Beni** of Irvington UFSD, and Treasurer **John Pennoyer** of Dutchess BOCES. **Ray Gerson** is the executive coordinator.

At its annual Scholastic Achievement Dinner, the Lower Hudson Council continued a tradition of recognizing outstanding students from Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties with scholarships. This year the Council formed a partnership with local colleges, which offered scholarships to students who overcame significant obstacles in obtaining their high school diplomas. J. Michael Orifici, a principal of JMOA Engineering, PC, led a drive that raised more than \$50,000 from corporate sponsors.

The recognition event was established 37 years ago by then-White

Plains Superintendent Carroll Johnson.

**Paul V. Fiacco**, superintendent of Gloversville Enlarged School District, received his doctorate from Syracuse University on June 28, 2001. His dissertation was titled "How Spirituality Affects the Personal and Professional Lives of Superintendents".

**Donald Covell**, retired superintendent of Livonia CSD, will become assistant professor in the Graduate School of Administration at SUNY Brockport. Since retiring from Livonia in 1997, Don has held a number of interim superintendent positions. Most recently, he has served as interim at Alexander CSD for a year.

**James H. Hunderfund**, superintendent of Commack UFSD, reports that his district voted to approve a \$92,915,000 bond for renovations and additions. Commack's enrollment is expected to grow by 2,200 to 9,016 by 2009.

# Fulbright Exchange Program Invites Applicants

The Fulbright Teacher and Administrator Exchange is seeking applicants for the 2002-03 program. In the teacher exchange, the U.S. school continues to pay the salary of its teacher and receives a highly qualified international teacher paid by his or her home school. Fulbright administrators receive a stipend and participate in six-week exchanges.

Each year the program administers about 200 teacher and administrator exchanges in about 30 countries. For an application, call 800-726-0479,

fax 202-479-6806, e-mail [fulbright@grad.usda.gov](mailto:fulbright@grad.usda.gov), or visit [www.fulbrightexchanges.org](http://www.fulbrightexchanges.org).

### Retirements

- Gary Buehler** ..... Oswego 6/29/01
- Patrick J. Hamill** ..... Port Jervis 7/6/01
- Thad Hetherington** ..... Asst. D.S. TST BOCES 6/30/01
- Paul Kelleher** ..... Lawrence 7/1/01
- George Mikolajczyk** .... Westhampton Beach 7/18/01
- Peter Robbins** ..... Bath 7/1/01
- Thomas Wolf** ..... Windham-Ashland-Jewett 8/1/01

## Superintendencies

### BROOKFIELD CSD

Stephen J. Kalies, District Supt. \$75,000-\$85,000  
 Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Enr: 300  
 Box 70, 4747 Middle Settlement Road Reply by:  
 New Hartford, NY 13413-0070 8/30/01

### CLINTON CSD

J.A. Roy Associates \$120,000  
 Clinton Search Enr: 1,800  
 P.O. Box 582 Reply by:  
 Dennisport, MA 02639-0582 10/13/01

### EASTERN SUFFOLK BOCES

Eastern Suffolk BOCES District Supt. Search \$125,000+  
 NYSSBA Search Services Enr: 53 districts  
 119 Washington Avenue Reply by:  
 Albany, NY 12210-2292 9/7/01

### FORT PLAIN CSD

Geoffrey H. Davis, District Supt. \$87,500-\$97,500  
 Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES Enr: 925  
 25 West Main Street, Suite One Reply by:  
 Johnstown, NY 12095 8/24/01

### LEROY CSD

Beverly L. Ouderkirk, District Supt. \$95,000-\$105,000  
 Genesee-Livingston-Steuben-Wyoming BOCES Enr: N/A  
 80 Munson Street Reply by:  
 LeRoy, NY 14482 8/17/01

### SALMON RIVER CSD

David J. DeSantis, District Supt. \$88,000-\$98,000  
 Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES Enr: 1,528  
 P.O. Box 28 Reply by:  
 Malone, NY 12953 8/3/01

### WEST SENECA CSD

William Silky/Suzanne Gilmour \$130,000  
 Castello & Silky Enr: 7,500  
 P.O. Box 100 Reply by:  
 Syracuse, NY 13215 11/23/01

## Chief School Officer Appointments

**Peter Bassett** ..... I., Piseco Common 7/1/01

**George W. Batterson** ..... Tonawanda 7/1/01  
*From Clyde-Savannah CSD*

**Timothy Barstow** ..... Marcellus 8/1/01  
*From Onondaga CSD*

**John Bierwirth** ..... Herricks 5/1/01  
*From Oregon*

**Anne Brungard** ..... Cuba-Rushford 7/11/01  
*Curriculum coordinator in the district*

**Bruce Burritt** ..... I., LeRoy CSD

**Terence M. Dolan** ..... Franklinville 7/1/01  
*High school principal in district*

**Paul R. Doyle** ..... Clyde-Savannah 7/21/01  
*From Saranac Lake CSD*

**Kenneth Eastwood** ..... I., Oswego 6/30/01  
*Assistant superintendent in the district*

**Eric Eversley** ..... Freeport 7/1/01  
*District superintendent of Eastern Suffolk BOCES*

**Carmen Farina** ..... A., NYC District #15

**David Feller** ..... North Merrick 7/16/01  
*From East Williston UFSD*

**James Frenck** ..... Windham-Ashland-Jewett 7/1/01  
*From Rochester area*

**David E. Gee** ..... I., Eastern Suffolk BOCES 7/1/01  
*District superintendent of Western Suffolk BOCES*

## Out-of-State Opportunities

(Contact NYCSCSS For Further Information)

**Dean:** Temple University College of Education, Philadelphia, PA. Enr: 3,800. By: ASAP. \$Highly competitive.

**Superintendent:** Window Rock Unified School District, Arizona. Enr: 3,200. By: 8/6/01. \$Based on experience.

**Superintendent:** Warren County School District, Warren, PA. Enr: 6,600. By: 8/10/01. \$95,000-\$110,000.

**Superintendent:** Sumter County Schools, Americus, GA. Enr: 5,650. By: 8/21/01. \$Competitive.

**Superintendent:** Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service District, Clare, MI. Enr: 9,592. By: 8/6/01. \$98,700+.

**Superintendent/High School Principal:** St. Patrick Catholic School, Portland, MI. Enr: 500. By: 7/16/01. Minimum \$50,000.

**Superintendent:** Graveport Madison Local School District, Franklin County, OH. Enr: 6,000+. By: 8/3/01. \$Competitive.

**Asst. Superintendent/Principal:** Warren Hills Regional High School, NJ. Enr: 1,780. By: 7/30/01. \$Negotiable.

**Middle School Principal:** Marlboro Township School District, western Monmouth County, NJ. Enr: N/A. By: 8/31/01. \$Based on experience.

## Other NYS Administrative Positions (Contact District For Further Information)

**Business Manager:** Gloversville Enlarged School District. Enr: 3,200. By: 8/15/01. \$Negotiable.

**Director of Student Services:** Shenendehowa CSD. Enr: N/A. By: ASAP. \$Based on experience.

**Elementary Principal:** Cobleskill-Richmondville CSD. Enr: 450. By: ASAP. \$65,000-\$72,000.

**Director of Instructional Programs:** Steuben-Allegany BOCES. Enr: N/A. By: 8/10/01. \$80,000-\$90,000.

**Director of Learning Technologies:** St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES. Enr: N/A. By: 7/20/01. \$Competitive.

**Junior-Senior High Principal:** Voorheesville CSD. Enr: 1,300. By: 7/23/01. \$75,000-\$85,000.

**Director of Instructional Services:** Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington BOCES. Enr: 17 districts. By: 8/2/01. \$65,000-\$75,000.

**Asst. Superintendent** for Personnel & Finance: Auburn City School District. Enr: 5,000. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.

**School Business Administrator** or Manager: Auburn City School District. Enr: 5,000. By: ASAP. \$Competitive.

**Middle School Principal:** Watkins Glen CSD. Enr: 475. By: 7/31/01. \$Competitive.

**Middle School Principal:** Greenwood Lake UFSD. Enr: N/A. By: 7/30/01. \$Competitive.

**Principal:** Margaretville CSD. Enr: 550. By: 8/15/01. \$Based on experience.

**School Business Administrator:** Cobleskill-Richmondville CSD. Enr: 2,300. By: ASAP. \$75,000-\$85,000.

**Asst. Superintendent** for Instruction: Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES. Enr: N/A. By: 8/6/01. \$80,000-\$85,000.

**Gregory Geer** ..... Byron-Bergen 8/1/01  
*Junior high principal in East Irondequoit CSD*

**Warren Gemmill** ..... Bronxville 7/30/01  
*Deputy superintendent in Saratoga Springs*

**James J. Giordano** ..... Hammondsport 7/1/01  
*Asst. district superintendent of Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES*

**Robert Guiffreda** ..... Southwestern 8/4/01  
*High school principal at Chautauqua Lake CSD*

**Patricia Hansen** ..... Carle Place 7/1/01  
*Assistant superintendent at North Shore CSD*

**Jon Hunter** ..... Geneseo 7/16/01  
*High school principal in Bethlehem CSD*

**Roger Hutchinson** ..... Bainbridge-Guilford 1/1/02  
*From Downsville*

**Judith Johnson** ..... Peekskill 9/1/01  
*Sr. program officer for Wallace Reader's Digest Funds*

**Sheldon Karnilow** ..... Half Hollow Hills 6/18/01  
*From Port Washington UFSD*

**Kenneth A. Lanier, Sr.** ..... Shelter Island 7/1/01  
*From Fire Island UFSD*

**Peter Lichkta** ..... Kingston 9/1/01  
*From Georgia*

**Lorenzo Licopoli** ..... Mineola 8/7/01  
*From Chatham CSD*

**Richard Malone** ..... I., Miller Place 7/1/01

**Ralph Marino, Jr.** ..... Hunter-Tannersville 8/5/01  
*Middle and high school principal in the district*

**Joyce Monroe** ..... I., Salmon River 7/1/01

**Richard Olcott** ..... I., Fire Island 7/1/01

**Edward Price** ..... Island Park 7/1/01  
*Formerly acting superintendent*

**John Raymond** ..... I., Saranac Lake 8/1/01  
*Retired middle school principal in district*

**Terry Remington** ..... I., St. Regis Falls 7/2/01  
*Business administrator in the district*

**Mark Rosenbaum** ..... Lawrence 7/1/01  
*Assistant superintendent in the district*

**Lynn Schwartz** ..... Westhampton Beach 7/19/01  
*Assistant superintendent in the district*

**Michael J. Singleton** ..... A., Saugerties 7/1/01  
*From Salmon River CSD*

**John K. Skahill, Jr.** ..... Brocton 8/1/01  
*From Brookfield CSD*

**Marion Tunney** ..... Bath/Haverling 7/1/01  
*Assistant superintendent in the district*

**Mark Vivacqua** ..... West Canada Valley 8/20/01  
*Elementary principal at Poland CSD*

**Gary Wank** ..... A., Margaretville 7/1/01

**Robert B. Witherow** ..... Port Jervis 7/1/01

**Dick L. Young** ..... Alexander CSD 8/1/01  
*From Mount Markham CSD*

**A. = Acting I. = Interim**

## Bush Backs Off from Disaggregation

### *Drops Support for Reporting Test Scores by Race*

**T**he White House is backing off of tough state **accountability procedures** for the education of poor, black and Hispanic children. As Texas governor, President Bush oversaw school reform that included reporting test scores by race, ethnicity and poverty level (disaggregation) and penalizing schools that failed to improve proficiency in all subgroups, *The New York Times* reported July 10.

The House education bill follows Texas' lead, requiring mastery of reading and writing basics in all groups. But Bush now favors the Senate version, which permits states to report only the average test scores for all groups, weighting some groups' results more than others.

Critics say the Senate version would allow states to hide deficiencies among minority groups in the average scores. The White House counters that the House bill would label all schools as failures.

Both chambers have approved their versions of the education bill, a revision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Differences in the bills are slated to be ironed out in a conference committee. But approval of a final bill does not appear likely before the end of the summer, *Education Week* reported July 11.

The Bush Administration has urged the Supreme Court to hear a case involving an Ohio **school voucher program** that gives Cleveland parents tuition assistance to send their children to private schools. The administration argues that the program is constitutional, although almost all of its 3,700 students attend religious schools, according to *The New York Times*, July 9.

President Bush stirred up antagonism from **civil rights advocates** when he nominated Gerald Reynolds, an outspoken critic of affirmative

action, to head the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights. The office handles complaints of discrimination in the area of education, according to *Education USA*, July 9.

The National Education Association announced that it would support any legislation giving parents the right to choose whether their children will take **standardized tests**, the Associated Press reported July 7. At its national conference in Los Angeles, the teachers union cautioned against reliance on standardized tests and recommended that districts use multiple assessment measures instead.

The policymaking arm of the NEA agreed at its conference to partner with the smaller rival union, the American Federation of Teachers. The alliance is designed to increase the unions' already-considerable influence upon legislative and regulatory activity, *The Los Angeles Times* reported July 7.

**Charter schools** have helped public schools by challenging them to step up their academic and artistic offerings, but hurt them by draining money from their budgets, according to a new study released by the Education Department. "Challenge and Opportunity: The Impact of Charter Schools on School Districts" concentrated on 49 public school districts in 5 states: Massachusetts, Arizona, California, Colorado, and Michigan, *The Boston Globe* reported July 8.

School boards and mayors across the country are increasingly looking outside the ranks of educators for **school superintendents**. More and more districts are choosing leaders from business and the military, with an eye toward results-oriented management, according to *The Washington Post*, July 3.

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**The President is backing the Senate version of ESEA renewal, allowing states to report average test scores for all groups.**

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## One Final Push for IDEA Funding

### *AASA Leads Effort to Include Funding in Reform Bill*

**A**s members of the House and Senate prepare to iron out differences in their competing education reform bills, AASA is mounting a last-minute campaign to integrate full federal funding of special education into the measure.

The Senate version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act renewal calls for raising the federal contribution toward special education funding to the 40% level promised when the Individuals with Disabilities Act was first adopted in 1975. Both the House and President Bush are opposed to full special education funding.

AASA invites members to view a chart showing how much additional funding each school district would receive under the Senate proposal. To view the chart, visit [www.aasa.org](http://www.aasa.org) and click on the link to "estimated IDEA increases". AASA asks that

members then use their districts' funding numbers in discussing IDEA funding with legislators.

Members can meet with legislators in their home offices during Congress' August break.

Pork spending projects are eating up the budget surplus and imperiling education spending in this year's federal budget, AASA reports. Bills to channel money to dams, transit systems and reclamation initiatives help legislators to win re-election, but are further straining a budget that includes no additional funds for education.

At a hearing on the state of the surplus, Senate Budget Committee Chair Kent Conrad (D-ND) warned that the "honey pot" of unallocated federal funds is gone, eaten away by the major tax cut, the economic downturn and such unexpected increases as the \$18+ billion in new money requested by De-

fense Secretary Rumsfeld.

AASA asks members to maintain pressure on Congress members to make good on their rhetoric about making education their top priority.

The House Judiciary Committee backed the President's Charitable Choice Act of 2001, declaring the measure will end discrimination against faith-based institutions in federally funded programs. Among other things, the initiative would allow churches to "compete" for federal after-school and tutoring funds, while remaining free to discriminate in their hiring policies, as no public school may do.

Further, the bill would allow churches to sue school districts, if they are denied access to federal education funds for after-school programs.

The Charitable Choice bill next goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

## Delegates Needed for National Conference

**I**t is time for NYSCOSS to nominate six representatives to serve on the 2002 **AASA Delegate Assembly**. Delegates help shape the organization's advocacy efforts.

The Assembly meets on February 14, 2002 at 2 p.m. during the 2002 AASA National Conference on Education in San Diego. If you are interested in serving, please submit your name for consideration by August 15 to Dr. Robert L. Loretan, Executive Director, NYSCOSS, 7 Elk Street, Third Floor, Albany, NY 12207-1002.

For more information on the national conference, visit [www.aasa.org/conferences/nce](http://www.aasa.org/conferences/nce).

The second annual "**Educators Call to Action:**

**Federal Advocacy**" conference takes place September 18 to 20 at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, D.C. Participants will be briefed on crucial bills affecting education, then speak with members of Congress. For information and online registration, go to [www.aasa.org/conferences/other](http://www.aasa.org/conferences/other).

NYSCOSS congratulates the national winners in the 2001 **Discover Card Tribute Award** Program: Swati Deshmukh of Connecticut, Matthew Kuo of Washington, Audrey Nelson of Nebraska, Ariel Overstreet of Montana, Laura Schwarz of Missouri, Tamara Stuart of California, Joshua Sundquist of Virginia, Laura Westercamp of Iowa, and Quintin Williams of Utah.



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- A standards correlation engine that lets you find and view curriculum units that are aligned with major state and national standards.
- A QuickTime TV for Learning section that presents live (and archived) events such as technology demonstrations, electronic field trips, best-practices vignettes, and presentations from education experts. Content providers include the U.S. Department of Education, the Field Museum of Natural History, the National Education Association, and many other educational agencies, institutions, and organizations.

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## Grant

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for school leaders. The project also provides an opportunity to bolster support systems for administrators, making school leadership more attractive to potential administrative candidates.

A kick-off event for the project is planned for the fall, and regional events will follow over the duration of the grant.



**Education Commissioner Richard Mills (l) and NYSCOSS Executive Director Robert Loretan field questions on the \$7.5 million Leadership Grant.**

state criminal report. SED must notify the school district within 15 business days of receipt of the employee's fingerprints as to whether the employee is conditionally cleared or not cleared, or whether more time is needed.

**Tier 3: Full Clearance**—All employees who receive conditional clearance must also receive full clearance from SED prior to an official appointment. SED may issue full clearance upon a favorable review of the employee's state and federal criminal reports.

The bill also requires districts to develop a policy for the safety of children who have contact with employees holding emergency or conditional clearance.

Given the time-sensitive nature of the bill, it is expected to be delivered to the Governor immediately. The law will sunset after two years, which the Legislature believes will provide time to generate a pool of fingerprinted employees for school districts to draw from and create an opportunity to re-evaluate the issue.

The Council and other school advocacy groups made significant efforts to create a more simplified process for school districts while at the same time ensuring the safety of students. The Legislature accepted some changes (allowing hiring pending clearance and eliminating multiple board meetings), while resisting others (creating a more simplified system and removing artificial timelines). Although not a user-friendly process, this system gives school districts the flexibility to re-engage in the hiring process for the 2001-02 school year.

## fingerprinting

*Continued from page 1*

background, on an emergency basis for 20 business days. SED must notify the school district within 15 business days of receipt of the employee's fingerprints as to whether the employee is conditionally cleared or not cleared, or whether more time is needed. An employee who is conditionally cleared will be rolled to Tier 2. Those not cleared, whether due to administrative delays or criminal records, must be terminated at the end of the 20-day period.

**Tier 2: Conditional Clearance**—A vacancy that does not qualify as an emergency may be filled on a conditional basis. A conditionally hired employee must be fingerprinted, sign a statement attesting to his criminal background, and receive conditional clearance from SED based on its review of the employee's

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## School Boards Association Provides Latest Policies

New York State School Boards Association is offering a new service: School Policy Alert. An annual subscription to the service gives a district access to the latest annotated school policies. The model policies are drafted based upon changes in statute, regulation and case law affecting school governance.

For information on this or any of NYSSBA's policy services, call Karen McNamara, deputy director of policy services, at (518) 465-3474 or e-mail her at [karen.mcnamara@nyssba.org](mailto:karen.mcnamara@nyssba.org).

# CALENDAR

## 2001-2002

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Summer Institute at Harvard  
July 22-25 ..... Cambridge, MA

AASA Federal Advocacy Conference  
Sept. 18-20 .... Washington, D.C.

NYSCOSS Mid-Winter Conference  
Jan. 13-15 ..... Albany

New Superintendents' Academy  
August 26 & 27 ..... Albany

NYSCOSS Fall Conference  
Sept. 30-Oct. 2 ..... Saratoga

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



NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF  
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