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Dear ESSAA Member,

David Frank, the NYSED Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Education Policy, periodically shares important updates regarding New York State Education Laws, Commissioner's Regulations, and Federal Guidelines with our leadership team. This information is valuable for public school administrators as they carry out their daily responsibilities. Below is the latest update from NYSED, which includes essential "Must Know" information on various key state and federal policies and programs that impact our members across the state.

As information evolves, we'll keep you informed about developments affecting New York State school administrators. Note, the most critical time sensitive information is labeled 'MUST KNOW.'

Your ESSAA Team

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#### **REMINDER**

##### **The New York State Teacher of the Year Program Is Now Accepting Applications for 2026 Teacher of the Year**

- The Teacher of the Year program recognizes exemplary educators. Every year, a New York State Teacher of the Year is chosen to serve as an ambassador for New York State teachers and New York State's nominee for the National Teacher of the Year.
- Additional information including how to nominate a teacher and/or submit an application may be found on the [NYSED Teacher of the Year](#) website.
- The application deadline **is February 7, 2025**.
- *Questions may be directed to the Office of Standards & Instruction at 518-474-5922 or [P12StandardsInstruction@nysed.gov](mailto:P12StandardsInstruction@nysed.gov).*

#### **FYI**

##### **Public School Registration (PSR) Process**

- In accordance with section 100.21(c) of the Commissioner's Regulations, school districts must complete the Public School Registration process if they plan to make any of the following changes to a public school for the 2025–2026 school year:
  - opening a new public school;

- closing an existing public school;
- modifying the grade organization of an existing public school, including adding PreK; and/or
- changing the location of a school.
- School districts considering or anticipating making such changes are encouraged to provide [SchoolRegistration@nysed.gov](mailto:SchoolRegistration@nysed.gov) with a summary of the proposed changes.
- Beginning in early January 2025, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) will provide Public School Registration forms in the [NYSED Application Business Portal](#).
- The deadline to submit applications for opening a new school and/or making changes to existing schools for the 2025–2026 school year is March 1, 2025.
- More information is available on the [Public School Registration website](#).
- *If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Accountability via e-mail at [SchoolRegistration@nysed.gov](mailto:SchoolRegistration@nysed.gov) or via phone at (518) 486-3532.*

#### **FYI**

##### **Register for the Fostering Positive Behavior in Prekindergarten Webinar**

- The Office of Early Learning is hosting the *Fostering Positive Behavior in Prekindergarten* webinar on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Participants will learn strategies they can implement to address challenging behaviors and further their understanding of building a positive learning environment.
- Interested parties can register for the Fostering Positive Behavior in Prekindergarten webinar [here](#).
- For more information on the webinars being offered by the Office of Early Learning this year, please visit the [Early Learning Webinar Series webpage](#).
- *Any questions can be sent to the Office of Early Learning at [OEL@nysed.gov](mailto:OEL@nysed.gov).*

#### **FYI**

##### **ASVAB Career Exploration Program**

- The [ASVAB Career Exploration Program](#) is a FREE career planning resource available to high schools nationwide.
- This resource provides no-cost career exploration and planning tools designed to help young adults in grade 10 and above make informed career decisions based on their skills and interests.
- Students benefit from understanding their aptitudes, work-related interests, and work values when planning for any career field entry path.
- Visit the [ASVAB Career Exploration Program website](#) to learn more about the program components or how to bring the ASVAB Career Exploration Program to your school or district.
- *Questions can be sent to [dodhra.asvab-cep@mail.mil](mailto:dodhra.asvab-cep@mail.mil)*

#### **FYI**

##### **New York State Department of Labor's Educator Career Development Ambassador Program: An Opportunity for Grade 6-12 Teachers, Librarians, and Counselors**

- The New York State Department of Labor is hosting the [Educator Career Development Ambassador Program](#).
- The [Educator Career Development Ambassador Program](#) is a paid, four-week summer training opportunity for teachers, librarians, and counselors to develop, implement, and deliver 21st-century career-readiness curricula and strategies to New York's students.

- This program is open to all grade 6-12 teachers, librarians, and counselors with five or more years of experience in a school setting.
- *For more information, please visit the [Department of Labor's Teacher Ambassador Program web page](#) or send an email to [DOLAmbassador@labor.ny.gov](mailto:DOLAmbassador@labor.ny.gov).*

#### **FYI**

#### **2025 Statewide Mathematics Tournament**

- As part of the [Expanded Mathematics Access Program \(EMAP\)](#), NYSED and [First In Math](#) will be hosting a [Statewide Tournament for Mathematics](#) for students in grades 1-8. The Statewide Mathematics Tournament will include virtual regional contests and an in-person statewide event.
- The virtual regional contests will be held during school hours on Thursday, March 20, 2025. The statewide in-person event is scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at the [New York State Museum](#).
- New York State students in grades 1-8 who are enrolled in the [First in Math](#) program are eligible to compete in the online Regional Contest. Winners of the 10 regional contests will advance to compete in the statewide event.
- The [First in Math](#) program is free for all (public, BOCES, charter, religious, and independent) New York State schools and programs serving students in grades K-8.
- For more information on the First In Math program or the Statewide Mathematics Tournament, please visit the [First In Math Tournament webpage](#).
- *For questions regarding the statewide tournament, please contact Nan Ronis, Executive VP of Suntex International Inc., at [nan@firstinmath.com](mailto:nan@firstinmath.com). For questions regarding EMAP, please visit the [Office of Standards and Instruction's website](#) or email [P12StandardsInstruction@nysed.gov](mailto:P12StandardsInstruction@nysed.gov).*

#### **FYI**

#### **Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Statewide Conference - March 19, 2025**

- The New York State Education Department (NYSED), in collaboration with the BOCES and Big 5 school districts, is hosting a statewide DEI conference on March 19, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at designated BOCES and Big 5 sites.
- This event, which will be a hybrid conference along with in-person discussion, will provide district and school administrators, DEI leaders, and educators with an opportunity to learn about ways in which school districts across the state are aligning practices with the [NYS Board of Regents Policy on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#).
- Promising practices in several key areas of the DEI Policy will be addressed, including establishing and facilitating DEI Committees focused on targeted goals, partnering with families and communities in advancing equity, and implementing inclusive programs that foster a sense of belonging and overall student and staff wellness.
- Individuals must attend in person and register through their local BOCES or Big 5 site.
- *Registration questions can be sent to Amalia Schiff at [Amalia.Schiff@nysed.gov](mailto:Amalia.Schiff@nysed.gov).*

#### **FYI**

#### **Make A Nomination for “What’s Great in Our State” Children’s Mental Health**

### Recognition Event

- The planning committee for the “What’s Great in Our State” event is seeking nominations to honor the programs, agencies, individuals, parents, and schools who are making a meaningful difference in the field of children and youth mental health in New York State.
- Honorees will be recognized at the “*What's Great in Our State*” Children’s Mental Health Awareness Celebration on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at the Marriott Albany.
- Nomination categories include Youth/Young Adult, Family/Caregiver, Lifetime, Systems of Care Community, Organization or Community Group, and School or School District.
- The nomination form includes details about each category. You can access the nomination form [here](#).
- For questions contact [Jessica.Stanis@omh.ny.gov](mailto:Jessica.Stanis@omh.ny.gov).

### FYI

#### FREE Measuring School Climate Training

- The NYSED Office of Student Support Services and the NYS Center for School Safety are offering a free webinar training on Measuring School Climate.
- *Intended Audience:* administrators, student support personnel (counselors, psychologists, social workers), and teachers.
- Registration is required, as capacity is limited.
- **Please register for only ONE session by clicking on the date and time below:**
  - Register: [Tuesday 2/11/25 10:00 am-12:00 pm](#)
  - Register: [Thursday 2/13/25 1:30 pm-3:30 pm](#)
- Contact the NYS Center for School Safety with questions by phone: 844-897-9567 or email: [nyscenterforschoolsafety@measinc.com](mailto:nyscenterforschoolsafety@measinc.com).

### FYI

#### School Safety and Education Climate (SSEC) Reporting Webinar

- NYSED’s [Office of Student Support Services](#) and the [NYS Center for School Safety](#) are pleased to offer an updated webinar on SSEC reporting.
- This session will address:
  - The process for annual reporting of SSEC data;
  - The revisions to SSEC category definitions that took effect in July 2021;
  - The Individual Incident Reporting (IIR) form; and
  - SVI calculations and designation of schools as Potentially Persistently Dangerous and Persistently Dangerous.
- *Intended audience:* administrators, data coordinators, and school staff responsible for annual School Safety and Educational Climate (SSEC) incident reporting.
- Registration is required, capacity is limited.
- Register: [Thursday 2/27/25 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm](#)
- Contact the NYS Center for School Safety with questions by phone at 844-897-9567 or email [nyscenterforschoolsafety@measinc.com](mailto:nyscenterforschoolsafety@measinc.com).

### FYI

#### NYSED Funding Opportunity: Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN)

- o The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the [Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network \(RBERN\)](#).
- o RFP 25-006 is posted at [Competitive Procurement Contracts](#).

o Questions about this RFP must be sent to [RBERNRFP25-006@nysed.gov](mailto:RBERNRFP25-006@nysed.gov) no later than close of business on January 24, 2025. A questions and answers summary will be posted by February 7, 2025.

o **All bids are due by 3:00 PM on February 28, 2025.**

o *For additional information, please review the full RFP at [Competitive Procurement Contracts](#).*

#### **FYI**

#### **Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) Launches the NYS FAFSA Ready Training Program**

- The [NYS FAFSA Ready Training Program](#) is designed to equip counselors, educators, and support professionals with the resources, tools, and expertise they need to help NYS students navigate the financial aid process.
  - The NYS FAFSA Ready Training program covers:
    - [FAFSA Completion Initiative](#): Learn how to access available data to identify and assist students who need help completing the FAFSA and TAP.
    - [Supporting Students Through Their FAFSA](#): Step-by-step guidance to help students complete the FAFSA successfully, including tips to avoid common errors.
    - [NYS TAP and DREAM Act Applications](#): Comprehensive tutorials on application processes, eligibility, and resources to assist students in accessing the state financial aid that they are eligible for.
  - Each section includes:
    - Training Seminars: You can sign up to attend a [live training session](#) or view the recordings anytime. The PowerPoint presentations will be available for all training.
    - Downloadable Resources: Informational materials on step-by-step guides to help professionals and students navigate the process and complete follow-up tasks.
    - Video Tutorials: A growing library of walkthroughs and how-to videos.
    - FAQs: A list of Frequently Asked Questions. This list is updated after each live training seminar.
  - *For more information and to register for upcoming training sessions, visit the [FAFSA Ready Training Program](#) website or contact HESC at [precollegeservices@hesc.ny.gov](mailto:precollegeservices@hesc.ny.gov).*
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