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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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### **MUST KNOW**

#### **2024-2025 Final Allocations Posted for Title I, Part A; Title I, Part D; Title II, Part A; and Title IV, Part A (attachment)**

- On January 31, 2025, the NYSED Office of ESSA-Funded Programs posted the 2024-2025 Final Allocations for Title I, Part A; Title I, Part D; Title II, Part A; and Title IV, Part A for all Local Education Agencies (LEAs) online at [Allocations, Poverty Data, and Student Counts](#).
- The adjustment from preliminary allocations posted in May 2024 to the final allocations is due to changes in student count data and state-level allocations calculated by the United States Department of Education.
- For information regarding the final allocations posting, please see the attachment titled "2024-25 Final Allocation Changes for Posting".
- Questions may be directed to the Office of ESSA-Funded Programs at (518) 473-0295 or [conappta@nysed.gov](mailto:conappta@nysed.gov).

### **FYI**

#### **Required Reporting on LEA Allocations of Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Emergency Relief (ESSER) and Governor's Education Emergency Relief (GEER) Funds – DUE February 25, 2025 (attachment)**

- The Department has developed the *Education Stabilization Fund Annual Report 2025 survey*, a data collection tool to satisfy U.S. Department of Education (USDE)

- reporting requirements for ESSER and GEER funds.
- The survey may be accessed in the [SED Monitoring and Vendor Reporting System](#).
- The reporting period is as follows:
  - CRRSA Act - ESSER II and GEER II: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
  - ARP Act ESSER III: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
  - ARP State Reserve: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
- LEAs must complete this survey no later than **February 25, 2025**.
- The Department will hold a webinar on **February 12, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**, to assist LEAs in completing the survey. Please join the webinar using this [Zoom link](#) and the following meeting information:

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 850 6645 4435

Passcode: ARcN4P

- Please direct questions to the Office of ESSA-Funded Programs at [CARESAct@nysed.gov](mailto:CARESAct@nysed.gov).*

## FYI

### Parent and Family Engagement Nonregulatory Guidance Update (attachment)

- The Office of ESSA-Funded Program is pleased to share, attached and [online](#), the U.S. Department of Education's updated non-regulatory guidance, ***Parent and Family Engagement under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act***.
- The purpose of this guidance is to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools in administering the parent and family engagement provisions of Title I, Part A of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA). This version of the guidance supersedes the April 2004 version.
- Please contact the Office of ESSA-Funded Programs at 518-473-0295 or via email at [conappta@nysed.gov](mailto:conappta@nysed.gov) if you have any questions about the updated guidance.*

## FYI

### Special Education Dispute Resolution Centers (SEDRC)

- The New York State Education Department Office of Special Education (OSE) announces the creation of the Special Education Dispute Resolution Center (SEDRC).
- This SEDRC is a statewide center focusing on the expansion of special education mediation and other proactive interventions that focus on supporting the prevention and resolution of disputes in special education.
- The award for the SEDRC has been made to the New York State Dispute Resolution Association (NYSDRA).
- The SEDRC will provide a variety of supports including:
  - Professional development for special education mediators and other stakeholders.
  - Administration of a centralized system to oversee requests for and intake of special education mediations across New York State (*additional information will be forthcoming upon implementation*).
  - Provide reimbursement of mediation administrative costs to New York State's Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRC); and
  - Collecting and reporting data on special education mediation sessions conducted throughout New York State.
- Additional information related to special education mediation is available on the [OSE website](#).
- Questions related to the SEDRC and/or special education mediation may be directed to:*
  - the OSE Due Process Unit at [specedih@nysed.gov](mailto:specedih@nysed.gov) or at (518) 473-0170;*

- and/or
- the SEDRC at [info@osedisputeresolution.org](mailto:info@osedisputeresolution.org) or at 1-855-RESOLVE (737-6583).

#### **FYI**

#### **New York State Education Department Now Accepting Applications for the 2025 Summer Food Service Program**

- The New York State Education Department is now accepting applications for the 2025 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).
- The Department encourages schools, government agencies, nonprofit groups, faith-based organizations, Indian tribal territories, migrant programs, and summer camps to apply to operate Programs within their communities.
- SFSP sponsor organizations receive federal and state reimbursement for each meal served to a child or teen, according to predetermined reimbursement rates set by USDA and the state.
- The Department will provide SFSP sponsor training in person and online in April. All organizations planning to participate in summer 2025 are required to attend one of these trainings.
- This year, the SFSP will operate throughout New York State from June 23 through August 31, 2025.
- Organizations that operated last year will be contacted to renew online in early spring.
- *Interested organizations new to the Program may request a sponsor application and obtain additional information on the [Summer Food Service Program](#) website, or contact the Department's Child Nutrition Program Administration team at (518) 486-1086. Email is also available at [CNSFSP@nysed.gov](mailto:CNSFSP@nysed.gov).*

#### **FYI**

#### **Office of Early Learning and Office of Cultural Education Release the *Cultural Connections Framework and Resource Kit* for P-3 Classrooms**

- The newly released [Cultural Connections Framework](#) recommends ways P-3 classrooms can connect with cultural institutions for class trips and learning experiences.
- This framework is organized by content area and features a variety of vetted resources.
- Schools are encouraged to use this document to make rich connections to New York State by bringing cultural experiences into the lives of students.
- The Cultural Connections Framework and Resource Kit can be found on the [Cultural Connections](#) webpage.
- *Questions can be directed to [OEL@nysed.gov](mailto:OEL@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 that 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, please contact [Jessica.Stanis@omh.ny.gov](mailto:Jessica.Stanis@omh.ny.gov).

#### **FYI**

#### **The Public Comment Period is Now Open for the *DRAFT 2025 New Charter School Request for Proposals (RFP) and Application Kit***

- The Charter Schools Office (CSO) has posted the proposed 2025 RFP and Application Kit on their website at [Starting a New BOR-Authorized Charter School](#).
- Public comments and questions will be accepted through **3:00 pm on February 18, 2025**.
- Written comments should be submitted to [CharterSchools@nysed.gov](mailto:CharterSchools@nysed.gov).
- After all comments have been reviewed and considered, the final 2025 RFP and Application Kit will be posted on **March 31, 2025**.
- Questions can be directed to [CharterSchools@nysed.gov](mailto:CharterSchools@nysed.gov).

#### **FYI**

#### **Be Well This Month: Care for Our Social and Emotional Well-Being (attachment)**

- This monthly communication from NYSED's Office of Student Support Services provides practical tips and resources for fostering well-being at home and work.
  - The February 2025 issue highlights Goal 2 of [New York's SEL Benchmarks](#), which focuses on using social awareness and interpersonal skills to establish, navigate, and maintain mutually supportive relationships with individuals and groups that nurture a strong sense of belonging.
  - Articles and resources include:
    - *Black History & Culture in New York State (I♥NY)*
    - *What is Love? A philosopher explains it's not a choice or a feeling – it's a practice (The Conversation)*
    - *Why animals help each other (TEDEd)*
    - *7 Active Listening Tips That'll Take Your Conversations to the Next Level (Wondermind)*
    - *How to manage conflict: Six essentials (IMD)*
  - Additional SEL resources are available on the [Student Support Services website](#). We welcome your feedback at [studentsupportservices@nysed.gov](mailto:studentsupportservices@nysed.gov).
  - Questions can be directed to Student Support Services at [studentsupportservices@nysed.gov](mailto:studentsupportservices@nysed.gov).
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