



# CNYSBA NEWS

*Train, Empower, Advocate, and Mobilize for Students*

## Baldwinsville Welcomes New Superintendent of Schools

The Baldwinsville school board recently named its next superintendent.

Jason D. Thomson thanked the school board after they voted 7-1 and said he was excited to start his new job on Tuesday.

The district will pay Thomson \$196,000 his first year as superintendent, according to his contract.

Baldwinsville has eight schools and 5,482 students in the district, according to the [state Education Department](#)'s most recent statistics. The district is the fourth largest in Onondaga County.

Read full story [here](#) from Syracuse.com.



## CNYSBA Roundtable: The ABC's of DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)

Join us at CNYSBA for our next members roundtable coming up on Thursday, October 28, 2021 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.. During this Zoom event, Ithaca City School Superintendent, Dr. Luvelle Brown will discuss diversity, equity and inclusion in education.

"Now more than ever, governance team members need the language and skills to facilitate conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in a way that is constructive instead of destructive," said Dr. Brown.





## Celebrating October - Manufacturing Month

As the manufacturing sector in Central New York continues to strengthen, trained workers are needed now more than ever. Add in the retirement of many life-long skilled workers, and you'll land on the skills gap that The Manufacturers Association of Central New York (MACNY), Partners for Education & Business (PEB), and the Central New York School Boards Association are diligently working to fill.

With this in mind, MACNY, PEB, and the Central New York School Boards Association have collaborated to place students from local school districts on track for the existing jobs in our area to keep the talent pool here. Throughout the month of October, MACNY and PEB will be celebrating Manufacturing Month—a month-long celebration kicked off by National Manufacturing Day on October 1, 2021. MFG Day, which is simultaneously

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"This session will focus on establishing a common mental model for terms and how to address the concerns and resistance that are inevitable when navigating this complex topic," he added.

Luvelle Brown is an experienced educator who has held positions as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, school CIO, and Superintendent of Schools. Currently, Dr. Brown is serving as the Superintendent of the Ithaca City School District (ICSD) in Ithaca, New York. During his tenure in Ithaca, the Ithaca City School District has experienced unprecedented levels of success.

Dr. Brown is a highly regarded speaker and workshop facilitator addressing a range of topics for local, regional, and national audiences. Recently Dr. Brown has facilitated Discovery Education's [Equity Talks](#), a live webinar series that has attracted thousands of global educators seeking to cultivate equity and excellence. He also served as a Commissioner and co-producer of a groundbreaking report from the [Learning 2025: National Commission on Student-Centered, Equity-Focused Education](#). He has published numerous articles, the author of *Culture of Love: Cultivating a Transformative and Positive Organizational Culture* and the co-author of *ThinkTweets: 100 Transformative Tweets for Educators*.

The event is free of charge to attend for members and will last one hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 28th. Visit our [website here to register](#), and you'll be sent a link just prior to the presentation.

## NYS Superintendent of the Year is From CNY!



The New York State Council of School Superintendents has named Dr. Donna DeSiato, superintendent of the East Syracuse Minoa Central School

District (ESM), as New York State Superintendent of the Year. DeSiato will represent New York state as its nominee for the national Superintendent of the Year award. [Get full story here at CNY Central.](#)

*Celebrating October - Manufacturing Month continued from page 2*

celebrated by manufacturers nationwide, serves as an annual opportunity to inspire the next generation to pursue the great careers the manufacturing sector has to offer.

The mission of Manufacturing Day is to show the reality of modern manufacturing careers by encouraging thousands of companies and educational institutions to connect with local students, parents, teachers, and community leaders. MFG Day also empowers manufacturers to come together to address their collective challenges so they can help their communities and future generations thrive.

MFG Day is focused on strategic events to promote manufacturing to students, parents, and educators in regions throughout the nation. To keep students safe, MACNY and PEB will be sharing virtual content throughout the month of October highlighting five local companies and their manufacturing career opportunities, along with two videos from our “You Do What For a Living?” series to showcase the STEM career opportunities that exist here in Central New York.

The MACNY and PEB event has more than 10 manufacturing companies participating as sponsors and will deliver content virtually to our educational partners throughout the state. New videos will be released each week and can be found on our 2021 Manufacturing Month YouTube playlist by clicking [here](#). Additional content will be released via email. To subscribe to the Manufacturing Month list, click [here](#). MACNY and PEB would like to thank their 2021 Manufacturing Day Sponsors: Lockheed Martin, Huhtamaki, Marquardt, Novelis, United Radio, PPC, AT&T, SRC, Syracuse Label & Surround Printing, AmeriCU, Bo-Mer Plastics, and Cathedral Candle.

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# YOU DO WHAT FOR A LIVING? DAVID GOODNESS OF WDI TALKS CAREER OPPORTUNITY



David Goodness

[Click to View](#)

# New Yorkers for Students' Educational Rights Win Settlement with NYS, But Much More Work Still Needs to Be Done

By Dr. Rick Timbs, Director SSFC



For the last seven years the Statewide School Finance Consortium has been a co-litigant in the *New Yorkers for Students' Educational Rights v. State of New York* lawsuit. The suit was our best effort and chance to secure full Foundation Aid Funding. That perseverance and the presence of several important allies has paid off. An agreement to settle the lawsuit has been signed off, contingent on the State keeping its commitment to fully pay out about \$4.2 billion in school aid over three years.

Our press release notes, "*If the State honors its commitments, the case will be dismissed. If not, the Plaintiffs will be able to continue the litigation*

*and seek an expedited trial to secure the promised funding. Plaintiffs believe today's agreement will be an important enforcement mechanism to ensure that the State lives up to its constitutional obligation to adequately fund a sound basic education for all New York students.*"

A commitment from Governor Kathy Hochul acknowledged that "*...the State is no longer pursuing the Foundation Aid lawsuit [NYSER v. State of New York] that occupied many people's time. ...That legal battle is over and...we have officially settled the lawsuit. ...The money was put in the budget last time; we will make sure the money is there going forward.*"

**T**his ongoing 2014 litigation, sought to require New York State to fully fund the Foundation Aid formula that was put into place following the historic Campaign for Fiscal Equity cases. The litigations had been opposed to by the state. The Foundation Aid formula was created in 2007, and although not perfect, takes school district wealth and student need into account to create a more equitable distribution of state funding to schools. New York State has never fully funded the Foundation Aid formula.

This has been a long battle as our press release indicates. "*The case was brought by New Yorkers for Students' Educational Rights (NYSER), a coalition of parents, students and groups representing other stakeholders in the public education system, as well as a number of individual parents. The plaintiffs – represented by pro bono counsel at the law firms Morgan Lewis & Bockius and White & Case; Michael A. Rebell, Esq., a Professor and Executive Director of the Center for Educational Equity at Teachers College, Columbia University and the Education Law Center – filed NYSER v. State of New York in 2014 to compel the State to fully fund the Foundation Aid formula, the school funding system established in the landmark Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) v. State of New York decision.*"

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This coalition proved to be very influential and powerful. *“The NYSER coalition includes major statewide organizations such as the New York State School Boards Association, the New York State Council of School Superintendents, the New York State PTA, the New York State Association of School Business Officials, **The Statewide School Finance Consortium**, the Rural Schools Association, Reform Education Finance Inequities Today (R.E.F.I.T.), 13 of New York’s Community Education Councils, and other parent and educational advocacy groups from New York City and around the state. Individual parents from the Schenectady school district joined New York City parents and students as plaintiffs in the case.”*

Michael Rebell, co-counsel for the plaintiffs stated, *“Unequal funding has been a blight on education in New York State since DeWitt Clinton was governor. We still have a great deal of work to do. But this was a big first step. The state now needs to update and improve the Foundation Aid formula that was based on a calculation made 15 years ago in order to provide all students the opportunity for a sound basic education guaranteed to them by the state constitution. We need a new system that will ensure adequate and equitable funding for all students on a permanent, stable basis for the future.”*

Jay Worona, the President of NYSER and Deputy Executive Director of the New York State School Boards Association, said that *“Our members and the millions of school children throughout the state who they represent deeply appreciate the great effort and many long hours that the law firms and attorneys who representing NYSER have devoted to this case on a pro bono basis.”*

If you recall, based on the 2021-22 budget the state indicated its willingness to fully fund the Foundation Aid formula by Fiscal Year 2024. That plan was to ensure that School districts would receive half of their Foundation Aid still due in 2022-2023 and be fully funded by 2023-2024. The newly signed agreement confirms that commitment.

A breakdown provided by the Governor’s office of anticipated Foundation Aid availability is below:

- FY 2022: \$19.8 billion, covering 30% of the existing shortfall
- FY 2023: Approximately \$21.3 billion, covering 50% of the anticipated shortfall
- FY 2024: Approximately \$23.2 billion, eliminating the anticipated shortfall, and funding the full amount of Foundation Aid for all school districts

Make no mistake this is a momentous achievement, but more work needs to be done. Critical elements of the Foundation Aid formula need revision, and updates are needed for it to truly represent the needs of all school districts.

Additionally, hundreds of school districts, for whom the Foundation Aid formula as implemented to date, are considered “fully funded” or even “save-harmless”. How much of an increase over the next two years those districts will receive is anyone’s guess. Based on the current and recent state budget increases, future increases could be muted. With the current inflation trends and limitations of the tax cap all is not necessarily rosy for every district into the future. Expense driven aids (i.e., BOCES, Building, Transportation Aids) will also tap state resources over time. We remain concerned about the State’s finances in the 2024-25 and 2025-26 fiscal years.

Make no mistake, we at SSFC will continue to battle for increased equity, adequacy, predictability, and sustainability of a Foundation Aid formula and other state support for our member school districts!

*Dr. Rick Timbs is the Director of the Statewide School Finance Consortium and is also President of RG Timbs Inc. in Rochester, NY*

# ***SAVE THE DATES:***

## **State-Mandated Governance Training for Newly Elected School Board Members**

### **1. Thursday, November 11, 2021**

6:00 – 6:10 PM - Welcome & Self Introductions

6:10 – 7:05 PM - Legal and Ethical Responsibilities of Board Members Don Budmen

7:05 – 7:15 PM - Break

7:15 - 8:15 PM - Child Abuse Reporting in an Educational Setting

8:20 – 9:30 PM - Personnel Evaluation, Hiring & Firing  
Don Budmen, Esq., Colleen Heinrich, Esq.

### **2. Saturday, November 13, 2021**

9:00 – 9:05 Welcome

9:05 – 10:35 AM Confidentiality, Executive Session & Public vs. Private Communication.  
Kate Reid

10:35 – 10:45 AM Break

10:45 – 11:30 AM Communications and Interaction with the Community. Bonnie Russell

11:30 – Noon Lunch

Noon – 2:50 PM Critical Education Issues & Effective Decision Making (Break During  
Session) – Rick Timbs

2:50 – 3:00 PM Closing & Certificate Presentation

## **Email Renee Stone here to register for these Governance Sessions**

### **3. Saturday, November 6, 2021**

**NYS Mandatory Finance Training** at CNYSBA/MACNY Offices 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

[Click here for further details and to Register](#)



**PATHWAYS  
TO CAREERS**

**C O N F E R E N C E**  
 WED., OCT. 20, 2021 - 5:30 - 7 PM  
 OCM BOCES  
 110 Elwood Davis Rd. Liverpool, NY 13088



**THERE ARE EXCELLENT  
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES  
FREE FROM COLLEGE  
LOANS AND DEBT!**

- CAREERS RIGHT HERE IN  
CENTRAL NEW YORK
- BENEFITS OF  
APPRENTICESHIP
- NEW AND EXCITING  
PATHWAYS TO REWARDING  
CAREERS





**DON'T MISS  
THIS EVENT**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN  
CAREER PATH OPPORTUNITIES  
THAT DON'T REQUIRE  
A COLLEGE EDUCATION?**

This event features a panel with representatives from BOCES, manufacturers, apprenticeships, and community colleges, to assist parents and school counselors discover amazing career opportunities right here in Central New York.

The event is highlighted by a panel of local school administrators and current apprentices discussing multiple career pathways available with our regional employers. This is a great event for students, teachers, and parents alike.

Bring your questions for Q&A at the end of the panel discussion or submit it in advance when you complete the online registration form. If your question isn't addressed, we will follow up with you after the program with the answer.

**ATTEND IN-PERSON**

THERE IS ALSO A ZOOM OPTION AVAILABLE.

**REGISTER HERE**