



CNYSBA NEWS

Train, Empower, Advocate, and Mobilize for Students

Check Our Website

Important Dates

It's that time of the year.

Budget deadlines are upon us, meaning next month there are several deadlines that must be met by law, regarding your school district budget.

The Board's budget must be made available between April 25th and May 2nd. Administrator salary disclosure must also be made available no later than 7 days before the budget hearing.

Additionally, the statewide budget vote and board member elections are on the calendar for May 16th.

[Click here](#) for a complete rundown of the 2023 Budget Deadlines set by SED.



Lansing Lunchbox Supports Lansing Bobcats

LansingLunchBox.org

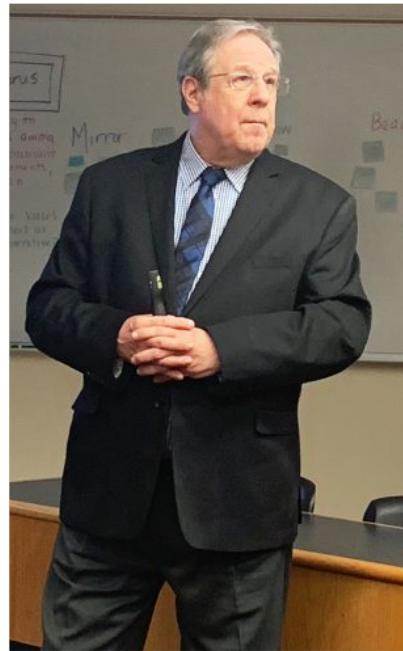
Hungry children struggle with academic learning, social interaction, and physical and mental health. Lansing Lunchbox, in the Lansing Central School District (LCSD), is a volunteer-run, community-funded anti-hunger program designed to ensure that kids have food to eat at home and while in school. The mission of “fighting hunger so kids can grow, learn and thrive” guides the Lansing Lunchbox’s grocery and healthy snack programs.

Continued on Page 5



Update: Be a Constituent Representative on Behalf of Your School District!

By Dr. Rick Timbs, Executive Director Statewide School Finance Consortium



Dr. Rick Timbs

The New York State Assembly and Senate have released their “one house” budget bills in response to the Executive Budget proposed earlier in the year by the Governor.

Many of their proposals in line with proposals I have suggested to you in our previous newsletter.

It is hoped that there will be an on-time budget this year (by April 1) so now is the time in discuss your interests and concerns with local state representatives.

Below is a comparison of the Assembly and Senate “one house bills” and a list of items commonly mentioned items as worthy of a conversation with local state legislators. You may have more items of your own, but this list will get the conversations started.

- **Oppose:** Freezing state aid to the November Data Base; this would hurt school districts as the data would not be updated to reflect the true aid eligible payments and thus, they would not be paid to the school district.

- **Oppose:** Freezing state aid to the November Data Base; this would hurt school districts as the data would not be updated to reflect the true aid eligible payments and thus, they would not be paid to the school district.

- o SSFC: This proposal has never been adopted and there is no reason for it... continue to press forward and oppose this item.

- **Support:** Transportation Aid for the transportation for 4-year-old children for Pre-K programs

- o SSFC: We see no concrete progress here, but it is important. Keep insisting on it. Both houses of the legislature have supported the study of Universal Pre-K however.

- **Oppose:** Hi Impact Tutoring Set-Aside- Foundation Aid is supposed to be unrestricted aid.

- o SSFC: Both the Assembly and Senate have pushed back on this item. As we have often said Foundation Aid was intended to be unrestricted aid. We could get this one.

- **Support:** Increase Unrestricted Unappropriated funds to 10% of the following years budget to enhance cashflow and as a buffer against inflationary trends

- SSFC: There appears to be no progress here. Legislators are unaware that many school district long-range financial plans are strained 4 to 5 years out.
- **Support:** Extending the Retiree Earnings Exemption to enable district to meet labor needs
 - SSFC: There is some support for this approach. There are many shortages in areas critical to the education of students; let's not let this one slip away.
- **Support:** The increase of the Capital outlay program to an amount of \$250,000 and allow the use of the funds in multiple buildings simultaneously.
 - SSFC: Both the Senate and Assembly are in support of expanding capital programs \$250,000.
- **Support:** Streamlining Reporting requirements; eliminate the state transparency reporting requirement as it is an unnecessary duplication of the Federal reporting requirements.
 - SSFC: Both the Assembly and Senate have supported the elimination of this transparency reporting requirement duplication.
- **Support:** Increase in CTE funding; increase aid eligible salary amount to \$60,000
 - SSFC: Both the Assembly and Senate have supported an increase in eligible salary amount for state aid for CTE funding related and related CTE instruction to salary amounts less than our suggested \$60,000; but it is an improvement and a movement in the right direction.
- **Support:** Adjustments to the Tax Cap- PILOTs should be included in the tax base growth factor as they represent actual increases in tax base; allow for pension costs to be included as exclusion if they increase over 4% of the preceding year.
 - SSFC: We have found no progress on this one from the Assembly or the Senate; we knew this was going to be a tough one what an important one.
- **Oppose:** Charter School Expansion: state support for this system is untenable, unnecessary and diverts funds from the actual public-school systems the constitution requires to be protected.
 - SSFC: We are happy that both the Assembly and Senate rejected the expansion of charter schools; and with it would have been an expansion in the Charter School Transition Aid in so much to support the Charter School Expansion; that would simply diminish its ability to pay other aid categories over time.

- **Support:** Universal Student meal programs; provide help for low-income families as the school district meal programs are simplified and made more efficient.
 - SSFC: Thankfully both the Senate and the Assembly are in support of universal student meal programs. It is the right thing to do.
- **Support:** The creation of a “Blue Ribbon Commission” to study Foundation Aid; its equity and adequacy. A8 S10
 - Encourage the “costing out” of the genuine cost of education in NYS; upgrade the CWR calculation; increase weighting in the formula for Students with Special Needs, English Language Learners, and other demographic categories including the school districts that are rural and deal with sparsity.
 - SSFC: While both the Assembly and the Senate provide funds for the study of the Foundation Aid formula and its subsequent funding mechanisms, details on what that exactly entails are sketchy at this point. There is no doubt that such a study is needed but how it would be conducted and expectations for participants and how they are chosen will be extremely important; we will have to keep an eye on this one.
- **Support:** The payout of the Prior Year Que; funds owed to school district for recognized clerical errors.
 - SSFC: The suggestion from the Senate is to provide \$36 million to start eliminating the prior year queue as a funding mechanism. It is far from perfect this is a step forward.
 - SSFC: We need the Assembly to follow suit with funding as well.
- SSFC: There are additional proposals from both houses to study Universal Pre-K programs and how to fund them which we are happy to see. This includes you UPK funding that can be used for current students as well as starting other items related to universal pre K.
- SSFC: Both houses have also rejected Zero-Emission reporting requirements and wish to make electrification studies Transportation Aid eligible. We have seen nothing on moving this mandate back or any alterations to it.

Remember, you don't have to go to Albany to get your suggestions and ideas across. Legislators are usually in home offices on Fridays before the budget is developed. Perhaps multiple school board members from multiple school districts could coordinate their visits to be more effective and efficient.

If I can assist in anyway, please give me a call.

Rick

CNYSBA Business Partner Spotlight

Turner

www.turnerconstruction.com

GLOBAL CAPABILITIES DELIVERED LOCALLY

Turner combines the strength, stability, and resources of a premier, national builder with the accessibility and support of a local firm. Turner maintains a network of offices around the globe with a staff of more than 10,000 employees who work on 1,500+ projects each year. Turner’s New York North Business Unit has offices conveniently located in Albany, Buffalo and Syracuse to serve the upstate New York region.

Continued on Page 6

The Lansing Lunchbox grocery program provides free food to families with kids in LCSD, serving over one hundred kids every two weeks, in a rural district that has approximately 1,200 students. Susan Tabrizi, Executive Director, says perceptions about the need for food resources in a community often underestimate the fact that food insecurity is present. “Our grocery program started out as a way to help families in need support kids over summer and holiday breaks when access to school meals was not available. We were trying to fill in those gaps. But the pandemic showed us that hunger was hiding in our community.” What started as an emergency food distribution in the spring of 2020 continued ever since, now offering food to clients twice a month. The program developed from a simple non-perishable food box containing the same items for every family to a custom-packed grocery system where clients order online from a menu of over 50 food items including meat, fresh dairy, vegetables, pantry staples, and fresh fruits. “We feel strongly that choice is an element of dignity and that quality has got to be top-notch - nothing goes home to our LCSD kids that we wouldn’t take to our own families.”

Lansing Lunchbox relies on volunteers and community funding sources such as local philanthropic organizations like the Triad Foundation and Ithaca Rotary as well as a grant from the Tompkins County Legislature. A large amount of funding comes from individual community members and local businesses. “We have a generous community”, Tabrizi says. “When people see the need, they respond.”

Involving students in supporting each other is an important part of the work. Lansing High School students help with the operations of Lansing Lunchbox, unloading pallets of food that arrive from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier and packing groceries on distribution days. When asked why they choose to give their time to this organization when there are so many other opportunities to volunteer in the community, LHS senior Charlie Segal says, “I volunteer and am thankful for all the others because we have peers in our community who struggle behind the scenes that we have no idea about. Any way I can help support my peers, I’m glad to.”

Continued on next page

Fellow senior, Nick Scanlon, notes the fact that Lansing Lunchbox is making a difference in fighting food insecurity: “I volunteer with Lansing Lunchbox because of the impact it has had in our community. I really appreciate the opportunity to help people in our community less fortunate than myself.”

With the end of the pandemic era emergency federal authorization allowing for universal free school breakfast and lunch for all students, over 750,000 students in New York have lost access to these resources. Hunger Solutions New York (<https://hungersolutionsny.org/>) notes that there are over 2,000 schools in NY that no longer qualify under current rules. LHS students have been active in lobbying Governor Hochul and the state legislature to include universal meals in the 2024 state budget, traveling to Albany, and participating in virtual lobby days. “What goes unnoticed, goes unresolved”, senior David Helmer told an assembled group of legislators and advocates in the state capitol in January. “I’m here to ask our legislators to notice these kids who go unseen and to help solve this problem.”



While legislative efforts to increase access to school food through universal meal programs at the state and federal level are ongoing, Lansing Lunchbox is continuing to work locally, expanding to work with LCSD to create a free, healthy snack for all program in the elementary, middle, and high schools. “We are grateful to work with teachers and school administrators who get the importance of food in academic, social, physical, and even mental health. We all want to create a healthy culture around food,” Tabrizi says. “Our philosophy is ‘everybody eats.’”

To learn more about Lansing Lunchbox visit www.LansingLunchbox.org.

STATEWIDE SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET VOTE IS COMING UP. ARE YOU READY?

A valuable evergreen by Dr. Rick Timbs

As we begin our work to secure final Board of Education approval for a budget and tax cap put before the voters, let us keep the following in mind:

- We should use the new CRSSA and ARPA federal grants to both supplement and supplant the budget to help students get back on track with their learning, improve the school districts academic success and support efforts to secure funds to battle inflationary services such as contractual and fixed costs of every school district.

We need to develop long-range plans through thoughtful and careful analysis of not just past trends but what we can discern from our current situation that will inform us about future trends. The way these new trends materialize will determine the financial health of the school district into the future.

- Long-range plans must include the big-ticket items. Those items include and are not limited to:
 - contractual obligations in labor contracts, supplies and equipment.

[-Read the rest of this story on our website. Click here.](#)

Visit the New SSFC Website.

www.SSFCdata.org

Get the latest data and school finance information from Dr. Rick Timbs.

The Statewide School Finance Consortium (SSFC) is an organization of more than 400 New York State public school districts whose mission is to bring equity to the distribution of New York State educational aid. SSFC membership is largely comprised of school districts from average and low-wealth communities that receive a disproportionate share of state funding in comparison to high-wealth regions of New York. The reform of the state aid process will help ensure that all of New York's children receive the same educational opportunities regardless of the wealth or location of their community.

CNYSBA Partner Spotlight - Continued from page 2

WE ARE YOUR LOCAL BUILDER

Turner's Syracuse office provides general pre-referendum, design/build, consulting, Information Modeling (BIM) services to



contracting, construction management, estimating, feasibility study and Building clients within all market segments. Our

Syracuse office employees are active citizens in the CNY Region and the depth and breadth of their local experience has grown extensive knowledge of and relationships with local contractors, architects, engineers, and consultants offering a multitude of skills and services. We have recently completed or are in the process of constructing a number of CNY projects, allowing us to maintain a finger on the pulse of current and local market and labor conditions.

K-12 CONSTRUCTION EXPERTISE

The K-12 education market segment has been and continues to be a primary focus and sense of pride for Turner. As a recognized leader in the K-12 industry, with over \$6B in school construction projects in Upstate NY alone, Turner has successfully managed more than 260 capital projects in over 200 different school districts and BOCES throughout Upstate NY. Turner consistently plays a vital role in K-12 construction bringing our pre-referendum, preconstruction and construction expertise to benefit the public school districts of NYS.

Our Syracuse office has been providing construction management services to CNY school districts for the past 24 years. Our CNY team offers a focused understanding of today's K-12 education industry, building new and renovating existing K-12 educational facilities throughout the region. Our team offers extensive familiarity and knowledge of federal, state, and local laws, ordinances and requirements, and NYSED procedures and requirements that apply to public K-12 school construction projects. The knowledge our team brings to each project is critical to meeting the budget and schedule, achieving quality standards, and ensuring the safety of the public during construction. Our team is driven to exceed expectations, recognizing that our school campuses are a great asset to our community.

APPROACH TO SERVICES

Our culture is to raise the bar, do the right thing and use the pillars of honesty, trust, collective responsibility, caring and pride on every project. We understand that each project is unique, with varying programs, teams, scopes, and challenges. Our approach to delivering services is tailored specifically to the design, construction, and closeout of each individual project. We offer methods, tools, and processes that have proven time and again to deliver projects with superb quality, that foster a team environment, and that deliver an exceptional project while being excellent stewards of our clients' cost investments. We strive to serve our clients by leveraging our local market knowledge, national resources and construction expertise. Our goal is to deliver every project with integrity, open collaboration, and innovation and for our clients to know that when they select Turner, they have selected a true partner in the construction process.



Earth Day Clean Up



Turner partnered with the Syracuse CSD in cleaning up at the Franklin and Dr. Edwin E. Weeks Elementary Schools. Our team assisted in picking up trash, pulling weeds, sweeping sidewalks and parking lots, trimming shrubs, and raking leaves. One year, much to our delight, we received more than 50 thank you notes from the students!

Educational Opportunities



Turner has promoted careers in the construction industry through its YouthForce program since 1989. The program introduces students to the construction industry with a tailored curriculum delivered by Turner staff. Objectives of Youthforce include encouraging students to stay in school and to consider the construction industry as a viable career path. Additionally, Turner’s Syracuse office partners with schools during capital improvement projects to promote construction career awareness through building tours, guest lectures and participation in career days.

Project Highlight – LaFayette CSD



Turner has been providing construction management services nearly continuously since 1999 for the LaFayette CSD. Projects include:

- High School Auditorium Renovation
- Kitchen and Cafeteria Renovations
- Elementary Library & Maker Space Re-Construction
- Main Office Renovations

Other work included district-wide security upgrades; a new bus maintenance facility and fuel island; roof replacements; a new concessions/restroom facility; MEP upgrades; and district-wide air quality focused renovations. Additionally, our staff provided classroom presentations and engaged with the LaFayette student population through various District events and activities.



2023 CNYSBA ANNUAL DINNER

Date: May 24th, 2023

Time: 5:00pm

Cost: \$50.00 per person

*Location: The Lodge
4355 State Street Skaneateles Falls, NY 13153*

Pre-Register Here:

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

CNY STEM SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships and paid internships for students pursuing STEM degrees



- ARCHITECTURE
- AUTOMATION ENGINEERING
- CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
- CIVIL ENGINEERING
- COMPUTER SCIENCE
- ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
- MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
- PROCESS ENGINEERING
- SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
- STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED BY:



Applications open at cnystem.com on November 1, 2022

Application Deadline: April 1, 2023

The CNY STEM Scholarship Program was designed by Partners for Education & Business (PEB) and the CNY STEM Hub to support CNY high school seniors who plan to pursue a college degree in a STEM-related field. Residents of Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, and Tompkins counties are eligible to apply, and preference is given to those attending a NYS higher education institution. Each scholarship provides financial assistance in varying amounts and an internship.





2023 VIRTUAL LEGISLATIVE FORUMS MULTI-DAY SCHEDULE

from Central New York School
Boards Association and
Statewide School Finance
Consortium

CNYSBA and SSFC would like to invite you to register for any of our upcoming 2023 Legislative Forums. These events are FULLY REMOTE and will be 90 mins in length and consist of a presentation from Guest Speaker Dr. Rick Timbs, President of Statewide School Finance Consortium (SSFC). Also, the event will include time for Questions and Answers with your local Legislatures.

*Did You
Miss
These
Legislative
Forums?*

*Click on
the links
below
to watch
the video.*

[OCM BOCES 2/4](#)

[CAYUGA-
ONONDAGA
BOCES 2/11](#)

[TST BOCES 2/11](#)

You Do What for a Living?

**Watch our video segment, You Do What
for a Living? to learn about Alivia Allen -
a Syracuse-area Iron Worker.
(Click on the video below to view)**



Click on the Video Above to View

Sponsored by



FERRARA FIORENZA PC

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW