



CNYSBA NEWS

Train, Empower, Advocate, and Mobilize for Students

Some Updates and Items to Come in 2024

By Dr. Rick Timbs

Credit goes to Adirondack Daily Enterprise staff writer Sydney Emerson for bringing us the news that the Statewide School Finance Consortium (SSFC) continued skepticism over the Zero-Emissions (ZEB) bus mandate has gained traction.

Emerson reports that some state representatives are supporting calls to lift the mandate or fully fund the mandate.

“State Sen. Dan Stec, R-Queensbury, has signed onto a letter with 14 other state Senate Republicans calling on Gov. Kathy Hochul to either lift the electric school bus mandate for public schools or fully fund the conversion process, his office announced Thursday.” That would have been December 14, 2023, for clarity.

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CENTRAL NEW YORK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION



GET ON THE BUS!



MYTH BUSTING PRESENTATION AND TOUR OF ELECTRIC BUS

Guest Speaker **Jeremy Johnston** from **New York Bus Sales** located in Chittenango, NY to present information regarding electric buses (myth vs. fact, changes required, how they are maintained, and any other questions). He will also be providing a tour and actual **RIDE** on an electric bus for all participants interested!

JANUARY 20TH, 2024

9:00am – 11:30am
OCM BOCES – 110 Elwood Davis Road Liverpool, NY 13088 (2nd floor – Seneca Conference Rm)



2024 CNY STEM Scholarship Application is Now Open!

The CNY STEM Scholarship Program is a multi-year scholarship supported by local companies for high school seniors and transfer students. Those awarded will have the opportunity to complete a paid internship with employers as early as the summer following their sophomore year of college. Residents of Delaware, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Otsego, and Tompkins counties are eligible to apply, and preference is given to those attending a NYS higher education institution.

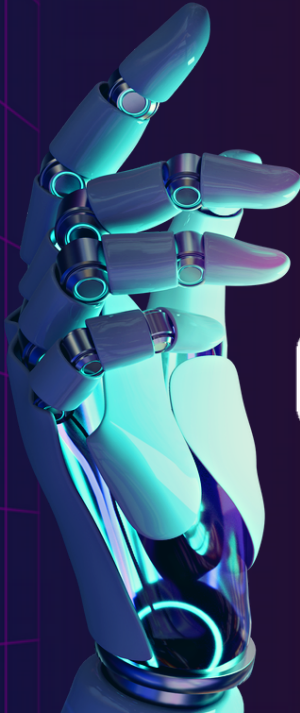
The CNY STEM Scholarship Program aims to:

- Build an inclusive and equitable STEM workforce in our community.
- Create awareness among students and their families of the rewarding STEM career opportunities with local companies.
- Keep our hometown talent local after college graduation.

To be eligible for a CNY STEM scholarship, students intending to study Architecture, Computer Science, or Engineering will be considered based on the companies currently sponsoring scholarships. Supporting companies in 2024 include Beardsley, Cooper Lighting, King & King Architects, INFICON, Marquardt, Novelis, SRC, and TTM Technologies.

Since the program's inception in 2013, the CNY STEM Scholarship program has awarded over \$975,000 to local students pursuing STEM majors. To learn more about the opportunity, supporting companies, and scholarship award examples, please visit: <https://cnystem.com>.

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!



CNYSTEM SCHOLARSHIPS



SCIENCE - TECHNOLOGY - ENGINEERING - MATHEMATICS



PURSUE YOUR DREAMS & APPLY FOR A CNYSTEM SCHOLARSHIP!

Important Dates:

Applications open 11/1/23 · Applications due 3/15/24
Winners announced 5/3/24

Scan the QR code or visit cnystem.com for more info!



Some Updates and Items to Come in 2024 by Dr. Rick Timbs - Continued from Page 1

The SSFC, while in support of clean energy has found the mandate itself with associated costs for the state and school districts are unrealistic as is the implementation plan and schedule.

Emerson adds, *“The letter signed by Stec, which was penned by state Sen. George Borello (R-Sunset Bay), said that the “extremely high cost of electric buses, the short transition timeline and the logistical challenges are all problems ... (that) have not been adequately addressed.”*

The entire article can be found at: <https://www.adirondackdailyenterprise.com/news/local-news/2023/12/stec-calls-for-lifting-of-electric-bus-mandate/>

As we mentioned in last month’s article, “Still more questions and concerns than carefully researched and quantified answers and reassurance.”

Here are the major themes SSFC presents:

- **Has there been a comprehensive, reliable, and valid study that includes the: Financial** implications of the ZEB mandate for **school districts** in every region of the state?
- **Financial** implications of the ZEB mandate for the **State of New York**?
- **Logistic, Political, Educational and Human Resource** implications of the ZEB mandate for **school districts** in every region of the state?

Here are several of the things we really must know:

- How much is this going to cost school districts, and New York State? To our knowledge this has not been calculated and/or disclosed.
- Will the cost of this mandate affect school district and New York State Long term financial health? We have no evidence that these costs are included in NYS budget forecasts.
- Will it affect the state’s ability to fund Foundation Aid increases for example? State funds are finite, and this is a real concern.

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- Can all school districts afford the increased costs associated with this mandate, or increased contracted service increases? Every school district is in a different place, financially.
- Do power companies, bus companies, contractors, vendors, and those who work in school district transportation departments have the resources, ability, and staff to achieve this transition within the mandated time period? We know of no study that answers this question.
- Will the timeline and cost of the mandate hamper any school district's ability to purchase, service and maintain these new bus fleets with our current labor force to minimize interruptions of service? We know of no study that answers this question.
- Will the timeline and cost of the mandate hamper any contractor's ability to purchase, service and maintain these new bus fleets with our current labor force to minimize interruptions of service? We know of no study that answers this question.
- As a practical matter is it possible that the functional life, often known as period of probable usefulness (PPU), of the ZEB buses will outlast the financing mechanisms (BANS or BONDS) used to purchase them and/or the Transportation Aid used in support their purchase? We know of no study that answers this question.
- In short, is it possible that school districts could still have debt on a bus they no longer own because the length of debt is longer than the life of the bus as school districts try to match amortization schedules with state aid schedules? If so, will Transportation Aid be continued on a bus no longer owned by the school district? We know of no study that answers these questions.
- Realistically is it financially and logically possible to replace, make operational and fulfill the transportation needs of school districts of about 50,000 school buses by 2035? We know of no study that answers this question.

There are practical matters that need review.

If the purchase of ZEBs will be supported by Transportation Aid and the improvements needed at Transportation Facilities or the construction of new Transportation Facilities to store, service and maintain these buses will be supported with Building aid:

- Does the New York State Education Department Office of Facilities Planning have the resources for evaluation and granting of the perhaps over 300 of applications for building permits for transportation facility construction projects in a timely manner so that all projects can be completed and operational by 2035? I know of no study that answers this question.

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- What will be the bidding climate under these conditions and how will interest rates fit into these calculations? This will be anyone's guess.

Is there public support for this mandate? What happens if voters, who by law determine bus purchases and the approval of construction projects deny school districts the ability to move forward on this mandate because of these incompatible legal requirements? We have already seen school district voter rejections of ZEB bus purchases for example.

We at the Statewide School Finance Consortium (SSFC) continue to view this initiative as in the "more needs to be figured out" category. There is still much to discover including its effect on each school district long range financial plan, fund balances, reserves and other fiscal considerations including but not limited to Transportation Aid and Building Aid. There is a growing list of questions and concerns that need to be studied and then addressed.

This is a work in progress for both New York State and School Districts.

For our video on this topic for the Central New York School Boards Association for to the following website to view it [October 2023 Electric Bus Roundtable w/ Dr. Rick Timbs | CNYSBA.org](#) and download the PowerPoint at: [PowerPoint Presentation \(ssfcdata.org\)](#) that accompanies the video. It could be useful as you search for the "how" of the "how are we going to do this"?

Coming soon: And this is Important!

As school districts work on budgets be prepared for the interpretation of the Governor's State of the State by Governor Kathy Hochul (1 pm on January 9, 2024). This will be followed in about 10 days with the Executive State Aid Proposal Runs that will include the Governor's state aid proposal with Foundation Aid amounts and other aids for all school districts.

Of particular interest in the Executive State Aid Proposal Runs will be the Governor's proposal that will reflect increases in Foundation Aid based on the current outdated and inequitable formula. This will be our first glimpse of how the Governor will support the growing number of **Save-Harmless** school districts after "full funding" was achieved for 2023-24.

Keep in mind that the legislature will also weigh in on the budget with the expectation that the final budget will be approved on time no later than April 1, 2024.

Be Well,
Rick

2024 Legislative Forums

Hosted by **CNYSBA**

- **OCM BOCES In-Person Event**
February 3rd, 2024 9a-11a •
- **TST BOCES In-Person Event**
February 8th, 2024 6p-8p •
- **CiTi BOCES Virtual Event**
February 10th, 2024 9a-1030a
- **CO BOCES Virtual Event**
February 10th, 2024 11a-1230p •

**YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO SPEAK WITH LOCAL LEGISLATORS AND
ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DISTRICTS. REGISTER AT
<https://cnysba.org/cnysba-events/>**



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 hosted Advocacy with Impact: Tools for Your Toolbox, in collaboration with Tompkins-Tioga-Seneca BOCES SBA and NYSSBA on January 4 in Ithaca. Over 35 local school board members and administrators engaged in conversation designed to build cooperation amongst TST BOCES school districts and to promote successful advocacy for public schools.

Thanks to everyone who attended and made this event a success. If you couldn't make it this time, we are planning more opportunities for you to participate. Collaboration is key to making our work for public schools effective and we look forward to seeing you all at our next event.

See you soon!

Susan Tabrizi

President, TST BOCES SBA

[Click Here to See Photos from Our January Advocacy Event](#)

There Are Openings On Our Board

The Central New York School Board Association currently has six open seats on our Board. Would you, or someone you know, be interested?

We currently have the following seats open:

- Cayuga - Onondaga - 3 seats available
- Cortland - Madison - 2 seats available
- Onondaga - Madison - 2 seat available

If you would like to inquire about the open seats on our board, please contact our Executive Director, Derrick Dorsey via email, at: derrick@cnysba.org

A very special Thank you to our current Board Members for 2023-24:

Cortland - Madison SBA

*Peg Peri - (Cincinnatus & OCM BOCES) - **President of CNYSBA***

Onondaga - Madison SBA

*Joan Reeves - (OCM BOCES) - **Vice President of CNYBSA***

Holly Frazee - (Fabius-Pompey)

Oswego SBA

Nicole Nadeau - (APW)

Connie Douglas - (Mexico)

Tom Ciappa - (Oswego City)

Tompkins - Seneca - Tioga SBA

Missy Rynone - (Newfield)

Jhoanna Haynes - (TST BOCES)

Susan Tabrizi - (Lansing)



CNYSBA EVENTS TO MAKE NOTE OF

January 4th, 2024 - NYSSBA, TST SBA, & CNYSBA Advocacy In-Person Event @ TST BOCES - Registration is closed

January 20th, 2024 - Get on the Bus Event w/ NY Bus Sales - OCM BOCES - in person - from 9am-11:30am - <https://form.jotform.com/233544945235056>

February 3rd, 2024 - OCM BOCES - in person - from 9am-11am (110 Elwood Davis Rd, Liverpool, NY 13088) <https://form.jotform.com/233544522547154>

February 8th, 2024 - TST BOCES - in person - tentatively 6pm-8pm (time may change) (555 Warren Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850) <https://form.jotform.com/233544877921163>

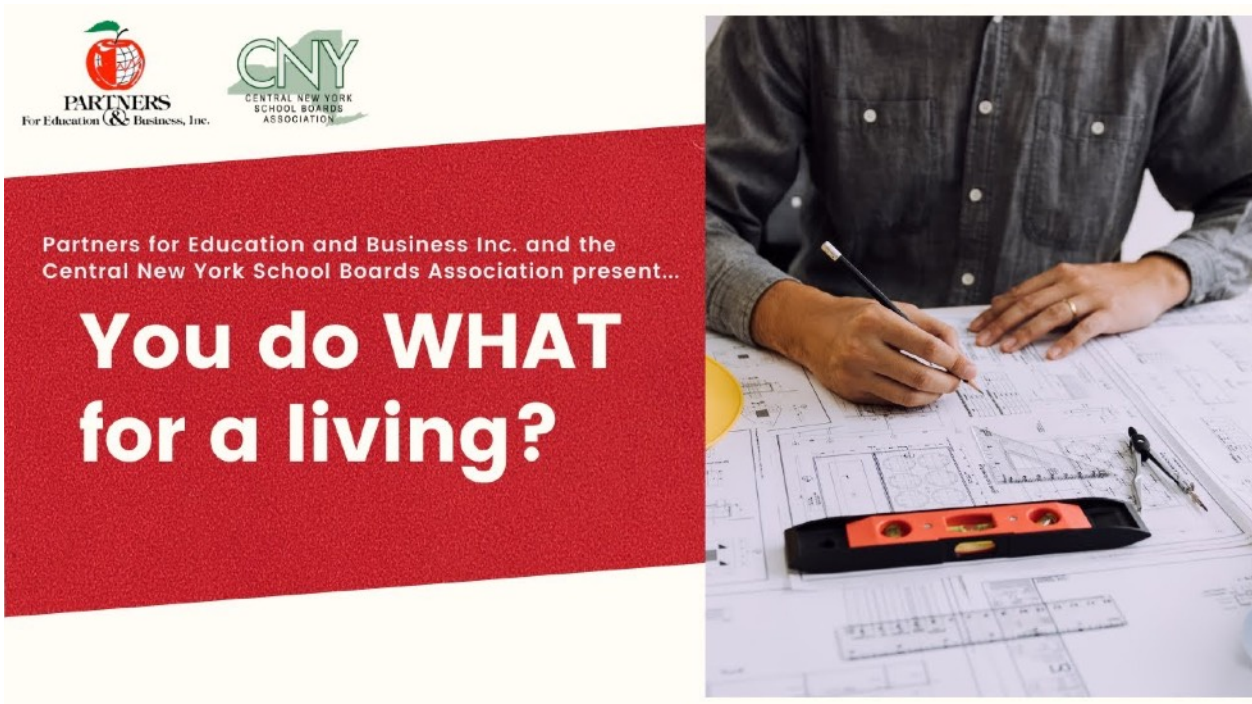
February 10th, 2024 - CiTi BOCES - Virtual Event - 9:00am-10:30am <https://form.jotform.com/233545561482156>

February 10th, 2024 - C/O BOCES - Virtual Event - 11:00am - 12:30pm <https://form.jotform.com/233545375461156>

May 22nd, 2024 - CNYSBA 41st Annual Dinner - The Lodge @ Hill Rom - Registration to Follow

You Do What for a Living?

Watch our video segment, You Do What for a Living? to learn about Chef Eric Smith, of Giovanni Foods. He's the Director of Culinary Research and Development and Corporate Executive Chef at Giovanni Foods. The interview is hosted by Kathy Birmingham of Partners For Education and Business.



Click on the Video Above to View

Sponsored by



We'd Love to Hear What You Think

We would love to hear the topic you would like to see featured at our next CNYSBA Roundtable.

Which topic(s) would you like to see featured at the next roundtable: *

Name (optional)

First Name

Last Name

School District (optional)

School District

Submit Feedback

NYSSBA Spotlight

NYSSBA's 2024 Leadership in Education Event

July 19 & 20 • Albany

The Desmond Hotel

SAVE
THE
DATE

JOIN US IN PERSON

for two days of learning, professional development
and networking with colleagues
from around the state.



New York State
School Boards
Association



[For More Information, Visit the NYSSBA website](http://www.CNYSBA.org)