

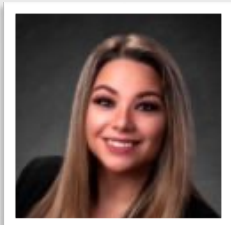


CNYSBA NEWS

Train, Empower, Advocate, and Mobilize for Students

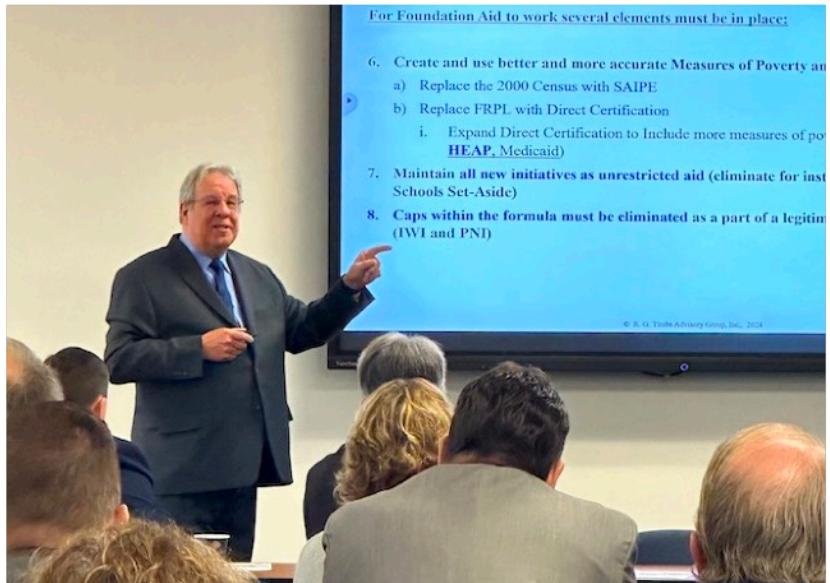
Meet our CNYSBA Executive Assistant

Ashley Stoltz



Ashley Stoltz is the Executive Assistant for the Central New York School Boards Association and Statewide School Finance Consortium. She is a Syracuse native with a passion for education. Ashley previously worked in Workforce Development, Human Resources, and Insurance Enrollment. She attended Keuka College where she studied Psychology. Ashley enjoys networking and helping others, and she likes to be engaged with her community.

If you have questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact her by phone or email. For immediate service, please **email Ashley** or call 315-463-1904.



SSFC Executive Director Dr. Rick Timbs at the CNYSBA Legislative session at OCM BOCES on February 3rd, 2024. (Photo by Ashley Stoltz / CNYSBA)

Some initial thoughts as you put your budget together for the 2024-25 school year:

By Dr. Rick Timbs

A mid-April deadline looms and there are a number of things to consider before your budget is approved by the Board of Education to go before the voters on the third Tuesday in May 2024. (Continued on next page)



It is hoped that the state budget will be in place by April 1st and within a day or two thereafter we will find out what the final state aid runs look like in the state budget. This year an on-time budget is especially important as the Executive Budget proposal contains a diminishment of prior Foundation Aid to the tune of almost \$168 million for 337 school districts in every region of New York State, and an intentionally calculated reduction in the rate of increase of Foundation Aid for everyone else.

The Executive Budget Proposal contains a significant difference in the way Foundation Aid will be calculated using the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Of all the formula changes we have suggested for years to make the Foundation Aid formula more equitable and adequate as a state funding mechanism in support for the ever-expanding mission of schools, this isn't one of them. The CPI use in the formula has not been problematic; but it may be now.

The following is a text from the 2023-24 Foundation Aid description as reiterated in the 2024-25 Executive Budget proposal state aid runs:

2024-25 State Aid Projections

Preliminary Estimate of 2023-24 and 2024-25 State Aids
Payable under Section 3609 plus Other Aids

2023-24 Estimated Aids:

Foundation Aid: The 2023-24 Foundation Aid is equal to the 2022-23 Foundation Aid base plus the greater of: (A) a 100 percent phase-in increase, or (B) a 3 percent minimum increase.

- A. **100 percent phase-in increase.** The 100 percent phase-in provides additional Foundation Aid for districts not yet receiving Total Foundation Aid. The value is equal to 100 percent of the positive difference between Total Foundation Aid and the 2022-23 Foundation Aid base.A.
- B. **3 percent minimum increase.** The 3 percent minimum ensures that no district receives an increase less than 3 percent of the 2022-23 Foundation Aid base.

Selected Foundation Aid is the greater of \$500 or Formula Foundation Aid or Alternate Foundation Aid. Formula Foundation Aid is the positive result of (a) the district-adjusted foundation amount which is the **basic foundation amount for 2023-24 (\$7,242) multiplied by the consumer price index (1.0800)** multiplied by a phase-in foundation percent (1.0000) multiplied by a Regional Cost Index (RCI) multiplied by a Pupil Need Index (PNI) less (b) an expected minimum local contribution. Alternate Foundation Aid is the result of the State Sharing Ratio (SSR) for Foundation Aid multiplied by the district-adjusted foundation amount...

(Continued on the next page 4)

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1

MARCH 9TH , 2024

9:00am – 11:30am
TST BOCES – 555 Warren Road
Ithaca, NY 14850 Dexhelmer Bldg
RM A-14

2

MARCH 23RD , 2024

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



IN COLLABORATION WITH TST BOCES SBA

Notice that the actual annual CPI is used to calculate the Adjusted Foundation Aid amount which is the first number in the formula and is later multiplied by any “Phase-in Factor (for years the number “1”), the Regional Cost Index (RCI) and the Pupil Needs Index (PNI). This gets the formula started and is the basis for other computations related to the basic value of student demographic measures in the formula.

At that time, the CPI was 8% annually. Eight percent was multiplied times the previous year amount of \$7,242 to produce the new Adjusted Foundation Aid amount of \$7,812; to be used in the Foundation Aid formula for the 2023 24 school year.

The Adjusted Foundation Amount, which included an annual CPI was used in the formula to reach “full funding” for all school districts and noted above as “The 100 percent phase-in provides additional Foundation Aid for districts not yet receiving Total Foundation `.”

For “Save-Harmless” or “Hold-Harmless” school districts, each were given a 3% increase over the previous year’s Foundation Aid amount also known as the “Due Minimum”.

That is the way this CPI has been used since the inception of the formula when first provided to school districts during the 2006-07 school year. But now the Executive Budget proposal wants to change that sentence and its definition. Below is verbiage from the 2024-25 Executive Budget proposal in the state aid runs:

2024-25 State Aid Projections - Preliminary Estimate of 2023-24 and 2024-25 State Aids Payable under Section 3609 plus Other Aids

2024-25 Estimated Aids:

Foundation Aid: The 2024-25 Foundation Aid is equal to the sum of the transition adjustment plus the product of total aid-able foundation pupil units (TAFPU) multiplied by the district's Selected Foundation Aid.

The transition adjustment is equal to the product of (a) the State Sharing Ratio for Total Foundation Aid for the 2024-25 school year, but not less than 50 percent, multiplied by (b) 2023-24 Foundation Aid less the Total Foundation Aid. Total Foundation Aid is TAFPU multiplied by the district's selected Foundation Aid.

Selected Foundation Aid is the greater of \$500 or Formula Foundation Aid or Alternate Foundation Aid. Formula Foundation Aid is the positive result of (a) the district-adjusted foundation amount which is the **basic foundation amount for 2024-25 (\$7,821) multiplied by the average consumer price index (1.0240)** multiplied by a Regional Cost Index (RCI) and multiplied by a Pupil Need Index (PNI) less (b) an expected minimum local contribution. **The consumer price index is the eight-year average of the percentage increase in the consumer price index for the ten most recent calendar years after excluding the highest and lowest values.** Alternate Foundation Aid is the result of the State Sharing Ratio (SSR) for Foundation Aid multiplied by the district-adjusted foundation amount. The Selected TAFPU is based on Average Daily Membership (ADM) including dual enrollment....

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Here are some items of note:

First is the use of the term "Transition Adjustment." This is a sign that things are going to change.

Second, everything changes. The "Transition Adjustment" for the previously "fully funded" school districts of 2023-24, it means an intentionally decreased rate of increase in Foundation Aid, or in the case of a few school districts, a movement into "Save-Harmless" or "Hold-Harmless" status. This is accomplished in the Executive Budget proposal by substituting the "current annual CPI" of 4.1% with the new "average consumer price index (1.0240)." The Executive Budget proposal defines the CPI differently. In the Executive Budget proposal, the "consumer price index is the eight-year average of the percentage increase in the consumer price index for the ten most recent calendar years after excluding the highest and lowest values" which equated to 2.4%; thus, lowering the calculation by leaving out 1.7% of the annual CPI.

Then comes the onerous "Transition Adjustment" for the "Save-Harmless" or "Hold-Harmless" school districts, where no increase exists. The Executive Budget proposal diminishes Foundation Aid to these school districts at various amounts determined by the amount of "Save-Harmlessness" or "Hold-Harmlessness" reduced by a computation aligned with the State Sharing Ratio section of the Foundation Aid formula that is based significantly on Property and Income wealth ratios with some additional weighting given to high need school districts (as calculated in 2003). For most, district student demographics play no significant role in the determination of the calibration of the loss of Foundati



Our conclusion at the Statewide School Finance Consortium (SSFC) is that every school district has been made out to look like losers in the Foundation Aid "game."

The current Foundation Aid formula is outdated:

- The 2000 Census
- The 2006-7 Regional Cost Index
- The student value weighting in the Foundation Aid formula is outdated relative to Students With Disabilities (SWD), English Language Learners (ELL), measures of student poverty such as the use of Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) and the Sparsity formula provides no functional assistance to rural school districts.

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The current Foundation Aid formula uses the wrong metrics:

- The Regional Cost Index is ineffective in creating equity or adequacy in the formula, and the economic regions are too broad.
- The use of Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) data is inappropriate considering the better use of Direct Certification data if it could also include the HEAP program.
- Create a Sparsity formula that provides real assistance to rural school districts.
- Replace the 2000 Census with Small Area and Income Poverty Estimate (SAIPE)
- The derivation of the Combined Wealth Ratio (CWR) is arbitrary and in many cases do not reflect of the actual wealth contained in the school district to determine a local share responsibility for financial support from a school district community.
- The use of the Income Wealth Index (IWI) with caps simply negates the equity poorer district need to reach equitable funding.

A quick reminder of our goals: for *Equity, Adequacy, Predictability, Sustainability*

Preamble: School Districts consider the 2007-08 Foundation Aid formula, its general concepts, construct, and promulgation sacrosanct.

School districts believe that the Foundation Aid formula must be quickly improved in the following areas:

- 1) The further development of more equitable distribution of funds among school districts based on accurate representations of fiscal capacity and poverty as well as the demographics of the student population relative to our educational mission.
- 2) The adequacy of funds within the formula based on the actual costs of education for each school district that allows it to achieve their educational mission, under the obligations contained in state law and regulation.
- 3) The development of a distinct phase-in plan over the next few years for an improved Foundation Aid formula to accomplish equity and adequacy so that state aid is significantly more predictable for each school district.
- 4) The development of a sound financial plan to sustain state aid to school districts by the state.

Advocacy is the key to success. **Advocate!**

Best wishes,

Rick

Did You Attend One of Our Legislative Forums?

February 3rd, 2024 - OCM BOCES, February 8th, 2024 - TST BOCES

February 10th, 2024 - CiTi BOCES, February 10th, 2024 - C/O BOCES

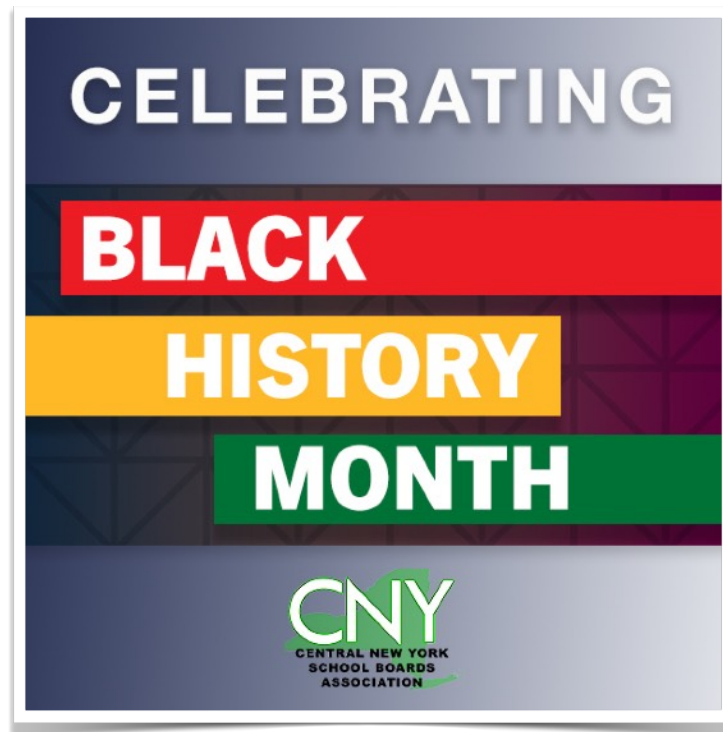
We Want Your Feedback!

[Click here to take our Legislative Forum Feedback Survey](#)



[Click here to view a gallery of photos from our Legislative event on February 3rd.](#)

Thanks to our Sponsor: C&S Companies



“As we celebrate Black History Month, the Board of Regents and the New York State Education Department remain steadfast in our commitment to incorporating the principles of equity and inclusion in everything that we do. By doing so, we are supporting the notion that education acts as a powerful change agent not only for our individual students, but also for our society at large. Recognizing and expanding the value of our diverse history helps to facilitate a greater appreciation for the diversity of our shared American culture and experiences.”

-Board of Regents Chancellor Lester W. Young, Jr.

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

HW Smith Students Become 'STEM Explorers' at SRC



Every Friday, 7th grade HW Smith students have special visitors in their science class: Syracuse University students who help lead them in hands-on STEM activities.

Through the STEM Explorers program – formerly Engineering Ambassadors – through the Mary Ann Shaw Center and in partnership with SRC and the SU College of Engineering and Computer Science, college students build relationships with the middle school students and serve as co-teachers while facilitating science learning.

And this year, for the first time, the middle school students were invited to take a field trip to visit SRC. There, they met their STEM Explorers mentors and engaged in activities like a STEM escape room, STEM Family Feud, tower building challenges, and more. They also had the opportunity to take part in a panel discussion with SRC staff.

“We got to have a fun experience trying new things,” HW Smith 7th grader Ma’Kayla Daniels said. “It was interesting to me to meet someone who didn’t have a dream of becoming an architect but who is now successfully doing it. It made me feel motivated about my future and where I might end up!”

“I like science and chemistry,” Noah Wrench added. “I liked the engineering that we did there. I might want to work as an engineer one day – mechanical engineering sounds interesting. At SRC, they do military defense stuff, and I think it sounds fun to help design vehicles and stuff like that. It was fun. I liked that even though we were still doing science, we weren’t sitting in a classroom all day!”

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Science teacher Tiffany Kwiek said her students were privileged to be the first group of SCSD students to visit SRC with the STEM Explorers group – adding that the impact of the trip reached far beyond a one-day field trip experience.

“My students gained a better understanding of what it means to be an engineer, learned how engineers solve problems, and explored how important engineering work can be for our society,” Ms. Kwiek explained. “The STEM Explorers program is great because it allows my students to meet college students that are closer to their age, and they can relate to them. The college students have goals for their future, and my students can see themselves also having the goal of going to college and becoming an engineer.”

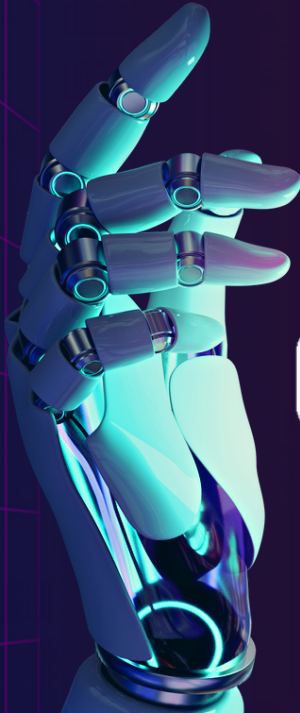
Previously through the STEM Explorers program, students enjoyed a trip touring the Syracuse University campus, which students enjoyed. But the added element of speaking with professionals who work in the STEM field was a favorite experience for many of the HW Smith scholars.

“We got to experience things that engineers get to do every day,” Chance Ross said. “It was cool, because I want to be an engineer one day. I like designing stuff – figuring things out. I was able to ask some questions of people who are engineers, and that made me excited about my future.”

“I’m definitely interested in science,” Aislinn Nolan shared. “I would love to work in biology or in a lab to help find cures for things. My favorite part of the SRC experience was the escape room, because it allowed me to use all of my capabilities. I was able to decipher symbols and things like that – that’s a strong suit of mine. We got to really work together and use our leadership and teamwork skills... it was great to do some unique STEM things! When we heard from the people who work at SRC, it was cool to hear their opinions – and they asked us some questions that led to deeper conversations. The trip made me more interested in what I can do and helped me think more about a future in STEM.”

Thank you to our partners at Syracuse University and SRC for making this possible and for helping our HW Smith scholars become #SCSDCareerReady!

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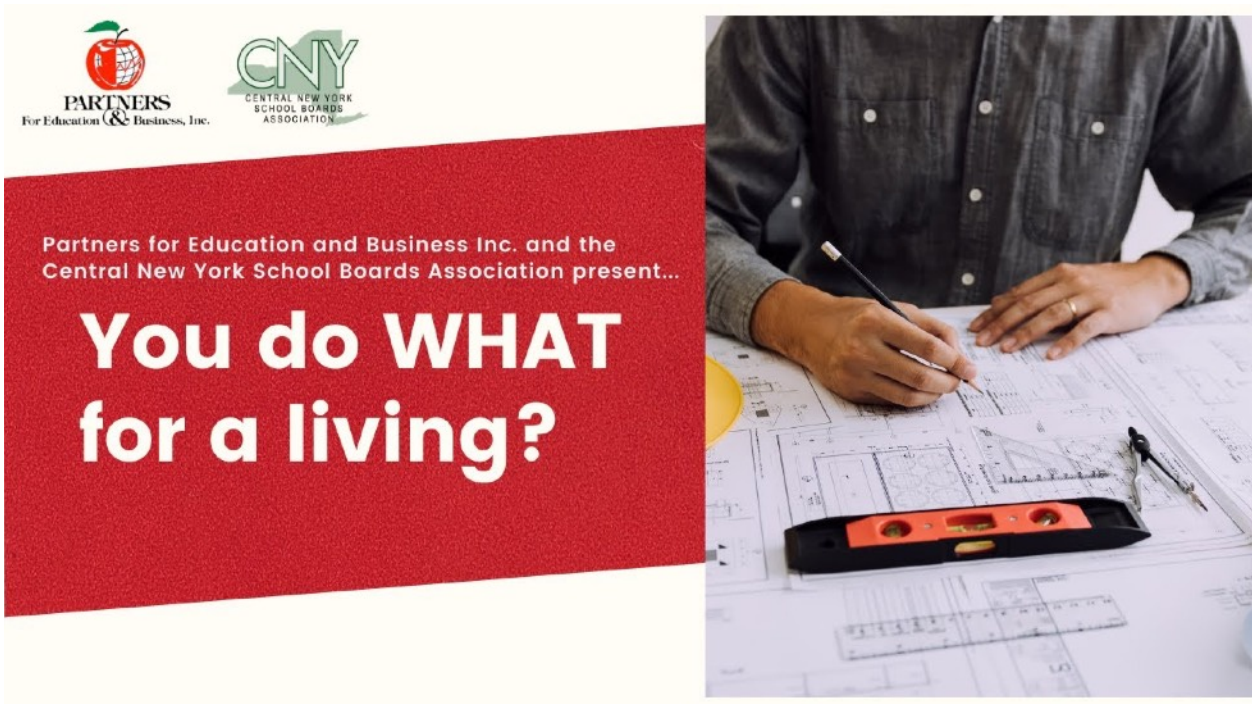
Applications open 11/1/23 · Applications due 3/15/24
Winners announced 5/3/24

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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

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CNYSBA EVENTS TO MAKE NOTE OF

March 9th, 2024 – TST BOCES - Get on the Bus Event w/ NY Bus Sales – in person – from 9am-11:30am [Click Here to Register](#)

March 23rd, 2024 – OCM BOCES - Get on the Bus Event w/ NY Bus Sales – in person – from 9am-11:30am – [Click Here to Register](#)

May 22nd, 2024 – CNYSBA 41st Annual Dinner – The Lodge @ Hillrom – [Click Here to Register](#)

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 Recently Hosted Advocacy with Impact: Tools for Your Toolbox



(L TO R) Zac Adams of NYSSBA, Ashley Stoltz of CNYSBA, Derrick Dorsey of CNYSBA, Susan Tabrizi (TST SBA President/CNYSBA Board Member) Sandy Ruffo NYSSBA President, Caroline Bobick NYSSBA, Pete Nowacki NYSSBA

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.

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)

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



Please take our brief survey regarding topics for our upcoming 2024 roundtable events. [Click here for the survey.](#) It will only take a minute.