



CNYSBA NEWS

Train, Empower, Advocate, and Mobilize for Students



School Transportation News

Lobby Edition and Additional Lobby Suggestions - Zero Emission Buses

By Dr. Rick Timbs

This initiative is crumbling. But it is not fast enough and not for sure. Time to push this over the edge. However, it is imperative that we target the implementation dates rather than the concept behind the initiative. It is clear, the state, the “Grid” and school districts writ large, cannot meet the implementation and completion timelines for this initiative.

Here is a scenario that reflects how I see things in general:

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If districts intend to retrofit their Transportation Facilities to accept these buses and their chargers in time to meet the current implementation timelines, over 300 school districts should seriously consider a plan to vote somewhere near December of 2025 to seek voter approval for the needed capital improvements. I believe this would be the general timeline to get voter approval, submit a massive number of plans and specifications to the Office of Facilities Planning, get Commissioner's approval and a building permit, bid the project and start and then complete the work in time to fully meet the mandate. (Obviously, hoping the Grid could supply everyone with the power to make it work.

Simultaneously, we would also need to seek voter approval for the purchase and acquisition of debt for significant numbers of Zero-emissions bus purchases from vendors who would in all probability not be able to supply them.

That means about 300 school districts will have to convince voters to approve the funds for these capital improvements and expensive bus purchases and the financing that goes along with it, and foot the bill for it as building aid and transportation aid trickle in between the next 8 to 15 or so years.

It would be hoped that actions by districts such as these would not contaminate the goodwill that generally exists between voters and their districts.

Keep in mind, those of you with contract busing, vendors are about to gear up as well and your costs are about to escalate drastically if this initiative is not delayed.

We have reached "the Emperor has no clothes moment." That is, there is no way this is going to work and there must be political courage to say so, and further, do something about it.

My suggestion:

Lobby hard and continuously, to move the starting date for purchases and the end date for full implementation of this mandate back by at least five years and perhaps seven years in this legislative session. Full stop!

To wait any longer is not a real option. If the mandate stays as it is for another year, we will not be able to catch up at all, and the aspirational nature of the mandate will be lost. Additionally, state government will become visibly deaf to the need of voters and school districts. Not a good look, especially in an election year.

Those districts for which the mandate is not a problem, continue on course as you wish.

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Other state aid and financial initiatives worth Lobbying for:

1. **Corral the increased loss of funds to charter schools.** (No Rockefeller Recommendations)
 - a. Claw-back provisions must be added into law to protect district finances.
2. **Increase Pre-K Aid and permit Transportation Aid for Pre-K programs** (No Rockefeller Recommendations)
3. **BOCES Aid: School districts have already paid expenses relative to these services and await reimbursement in the form of aid. They must be protected and enhanced.** (No Rockefeller Recommendations)
 - a) Increase significantly the \$30,000 salary limit (from the 1990s) on BOCES Aid (Ramp into \$60-65,000)
4. **Excess Cost Aids, Academic Enhancement Aid and High Tax Aid are aid categories that have not been updated in years and continue to be unrealistically frozen or simply without merit in terms of equity. These aids categories should be addressed for equity and adequacy.** (No Rockefeller Recommendations)
5. **All aid due to school districts in the “Prior Year Aid Queue” must be paid on an accelerated basis.** (No Rockefeller Recommendations)
6. **Increase RPTL §1318 to at least 10% 4% is SIMPLY TOO LOW!!!** (The Rockefeller Report Agreed in part and only for a few years)
7. **The state must reevaluate its state aid initiatives every 2 years for equity, adequacy, and sustainability.** (The Rockefeller Report Agreed to this type of reevaluation)
8. **Retiree Income Waiver Extension** (Not part of the Rockefeller Institute charges in their study)
 - a) School districts and school district business offices are suffering from workforce shortages, with few professionals in the pipeline. Districts try to recruit and retain staff but to fill critical positions they often simply hire from other districts. This results in a zero-sum game.
 - b) For over 4 years, our state government has continued to authorize an extension to the waiver for the cap on retiree income. Despite concerns about continuing the practice in state government circles, it continues to be, unfortunately, still needed.
 - c) It is obvious that there is merit to the continued authorization of the extension of the authority for public sector retirees to return to school district or BOCES service without income limit or pension penalty.

Be Well,

Rick

OCSBA & CNYSBA
PRESENT:
AN EVENING
WITH A.I.

Exploring the Future of Education

EVENT DATE: 03.27.2025	TIME & PLACE: 6:30PM-9:30PM @ OCM BOCES
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Join us for this FREE In-Person Event with Special Guests!!

The Oswego County School Boards Association (OCSBA) in conjunction with Central New York School Boards Association (CNYSBA) Presents “An Evening with A.I. : Exploring the Future of Education”. Dr. Daggett will discuss the transformative impact of AI on education, trends that are reshaping the field, and insights into how AI could alter teaching and learning processes. Ed Finney will showcase practical AI tools already in use within their district, highlighting how AI assists educators, enhances student learning experiences, and optimizes school operations.

REGISTER
NOW



by scanning the QR CODE

Guest Speakers:

Dr. William Daggett



Bill Daggett is the founder of both the Successful Practices Network and the International Center for Leadership in Education.

Ed Finney



Ed Finney, the Technology Integration Specialist at Schodack Central School District, was awarded the 2024 Lee Bryant Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award by NYSCATE.

Registration Link:
<https://form.jotform.com/243644584295164>

For more information:
 Contact: tciaappa@oswego.org

Mexico High School: Soaring Into the Future

Mexico High School is excited to offer a dynamic new program: Drone Technology. This two-year experience provides students with a comprehensive introduction to the rapidly evolving world of drone technology, opening doors to exciting future possibilities.



Students will explore drone operation, creative production, and real-world applications, making this a valuable opportunity for those interested in technology, aviation, and multimedia.

The program benefits from the expertise of two instructors, Mr. David von Holtz and Mr. David Dzielak, who alternate teaching responsibilities each year. This year, Mr. von Holtz is leading the first-year course, focusing on building a solid foundation in drone operation. Students will learn the basics of flight, gain hands-on piloting experience, and explore the mechanics of these sophisticated machines. The curriculum also emphasizes safety and regulatory compliance, with a focus on preparing students for the FAA Part 107 exam, which, upon passing, allows them to become certified drone operators.

Second year students are working with Mr. Dzielak's class, where they delve into more advanced skills and applications. Mr. Dzielak introduces autonomous flight, teaching students how to program drones for precise and automated missions. The course also incorporates professional-grade multimedia training, utilizing

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Adobe Creative Suite tools like Photoshop and Premiere Pro for photo and video editing. Students will also explore technical projects like 3D modeling and mapping using Pix4D, a platform used in industries like construction, real estate, and environmental monitoring.

Mr. Jay Rhinehart from our technology department was instrumental in helping with the set up of the initial program and continues to offer technical assistance as needed.

The Drone Course goes beyond classroom learning, offering students opportunities to apply their skills in real-world projects that benefit the school district and the community. They have captured impressive aerial photos and videos of school buildings and events, creating engaging content that highlights the district's activities. Their mapping projects have also provided valuable data about the school grounds, demonstrating the practical applications of drone technology.

Graduates of the Drone Course will be well-prepared for a variety of career paths in drone-related fields. With an FAA Part 107 license, they can pursue opportunities as aerial photographers and videographers, mapping and surveying specialists, drone technicians, and operators in industries such as agriculture, construction, public safety, and environmental conservation. The growing drone industry offers roles in disaster response, infrastructure inspection, and even delivery services, making the skills learned in this program highly versatile.

This program provides students with marketable skills, preparing them for careers in a rapidly expanding field. Whether their interests lie in technology, videography, or engineering, students in the Drone Course gain hands-on experience that fosters creativity and innovation while positioning them for future success.

Mexico High School's Drone Course is an excellent example of how education can effectively prepare students for the future. By equipping them with the tools and skills to navigate the world of drone technology, the program is helping them reach their full potential as they soar into the future.

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ASSOCIATION

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SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

**DID YOU MISS
THE BUDGET REFRESHER
ROUNDTABLE EVENT??**

HEAR IMPORTANT BUDGET PROCESS INFORMATION FROM OUR GUEST **SPEAKERS MIKE SHEPERD** (CITI BOCES ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), **ANTHONY SONNACCHIO** (SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR, MARCELLUS CSD) AND **MIKE PUNTSCHENKO** (SCSD, CFO).

View a Recording of the Event Here:

1/28/2025 Budget Refresher Virtual Roundtable

UPCOMING CNYSBA EVENTS

February 28th, 2025 – TST BOCES Legislative Forum — 6:00pm – 7:30pm – (Virtual) [click here to register](#)

March 27th, 2025 – Joint Event with OCSBA (Oswego County SBA) – An Evening With A.I. – Exploring the Future of Education- w/ 2 Special Guests – 6:30pm – 9:30pm – @ OCM BOCES Admin Bldg. – (In-Person Event) –) [click here to register](#)

March DATE TBD – Round-Table Event – Mental Health Awareness – Time TBD – Date Subject to Change – (Virtual)

April 2nd, 2025 – Round-Table Event – Recruiting/Retention/Staffing Difficulties – Time TBD – Date Subject to Change – (Virtual)

May 21st, 2025 – CNYSBA 42nd Annual Dinner – Time TBD – The Lodge in Skaneateles – In-Person.

CNY STEM SCHOLARSHIP



The CNY STEM Scholarship Program supports Central New York high school seniors pursuing college degrees in STEM fields. Administered by Partners for Education & Business, Inc. (PEB), the program aims to build an inclusive STEM workforce, highlight local career opportunities, and retain local talent. Scholarships are awarded based on a number of criteria. Participating companies are encouraged to offer a paid internship opportunity following the student's sophomore year of college.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications open in November and close in mid-March. Top candidates are selected by sponsoring companies using a standard rubric and scheduled for virtual interviews coordinated by PEB. Company representatives conduct the interviews and choose scholarship recipients based on both applications and interviews. Final decisions are announced via email in early May.

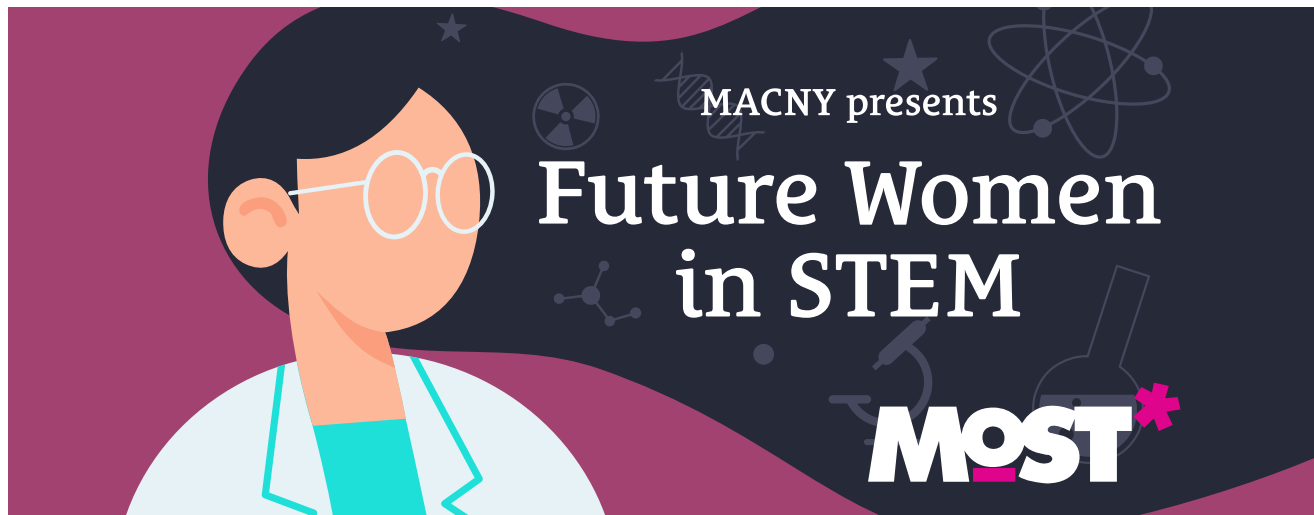
ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

- Current High School Senior
- Planned College Major:
 - Architecture
 - Computer Science
 - Engineering
 - Math
 - Physics
- Required Cumulative Average: 85+



INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

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



Explore careers in engineering, manufacturing, and science through hands-on activities with amazing local women in these industries!!



For: Girls in 6th–8th grades

When: Second Saturday of the month, 10–11am, October–May

Where: The MOST, 500 S. Franklin St, Syracuse (Armory Square)

FREE participation and museum admission for students and families



OCT 12	Feldmeier Equipment How Stable is Your Table?	FEB 8	Perimetek Pest Management What to Do About That Critter?!? Using STEM in Pest Management
NOV 9	TTM Technologies & Micron Technology Design & Build: The Manufacturing Experience	MAR 8	Cornell Cooperative Extension Madison County & NewsChannel 9 From Raindrops to Roots: the Science of Weather and Farming
DEC 14	Tessy Mix & Mold: Making Everyday Plastic Products	APR 12	Crouse & Lab Alliance of Central New York A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Lab and Critical Care Nursing
JAN 11	King + King Architects Fun-Sized Floorplans	MAY 10	Byrne Using Food Science to Make Dairy Products



Learn more and register online at most.org/future-women-in-stem





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