



# CNYSBA NEWS

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

## **NYSSBA Annual Convention & Education Expo**

The annual NYSSBA Convention & Education Expo is set for October 23 - 25 at the New York Hilton Midtown and registration is open.

As the largest gathering of its kind in New York State, NYSSBA's Annual Convention and Education Expo delivers a unique combination of extensive educational programming, dynamic networking opportunities and inspirational speakers and exhibits. It's a must-attend event for school board members, superintendents, district and building-level administrators and other education leaders.

Attend in-person or online.

[Register here](#)



## **Some Thoughts As We Begin Another New School Year**

by Dr. Rick Timbs, Executive Director, SSFC

No one person is responsible for a successful fiscal school year. Customarily, during every opening month of a school year, it is important to reflect on all those who played a role in the fiscal success of school districts throughout the last school year as they align with the goals of the Statewide School Finance Consortium (SSFC).

*Photo Credit - Ashley Stolts, CNYSBA*

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Obviously, it is the members of SSFC; board members, superintendents, business officials of member districts are among them. But there are many more contributors. Let's take some time to mention a few.

Although the list is long and I'm sure I'll forget someone, but I want to take this time to focus on certain individuals and organizations that have assisted the SSFC in its mission to ensure that school districts are fiscally healthy by creating a Foundation Aid formula that is fair, equitable, predictable, and sustainable. Along with that goal, it is also important to ensure that school districts have the best information available to them to maintain the fiscal integrity of their school districts long term. The SSFC, in that effort, has some official and unofficial partners along the way.

Let's start with our own official governance group, the Central New York School Boards Association.

The leadership, support and guidance provided by Derrick Dorsey, executive director, and Ashely Stoltz, executive assistant are engaged with a dedicated and knowledgeable board of directors that include:

**BOARD LEADERSHIP**

PRESIDENT – JOAN REEVES

VICE PRESIDENT – MISSY RYNONE

**CORTLAND-MADISON SBA**

PEG PERI (Cincinnati & OCM BOCES)

**ONONDAGA-MADISON SBA**

JOAN REEVES (OCM BOCES)

GWENDOLYN RAEFORD (Syracuse City)

**TOMPKINS-SENECA-TIOGA SBA**

MISSY RYNONE (Newfield)

SUSAN TABRIZI (Lansing & TST BOCES))

**OSWEGO SBA**

NICOLE NADEAU (APW)

CONNIE DOUGLAS (Mexico)

TOM CIAPPA (Oswego City)

**CAYUGA ONONDAGA SBA**

\* Vacant Seat \*

**CNYSBA Provides:**

**Board Training & Development**

- **The School for New Board Members**  
During four evenings in June, newly elected school board members learn how to have an immediate impact on their boards. Over 400 new board members have received this training.
- **Board President Roundtables**  
Board Presidents from throughout central New York can sharpen their leadership skills, discuss issues of common concern, and share ideas through CNYSBA programs designed specifically for board presidents.

**Legislative Action**

- **Legislative Breakfasts**  
CNYSBA sponsors multiple legislative breakfasts in the Central New York

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region, enabling our members to share their concerns with the 16 NYS Senate and Assembly Members who collectively represent us.

### **Legislative Information**

Legislative Updates: Provided to all board members and superintendents, these keep our members apprised of budget and political developments in Albany that affect state aid.

## **Additional supports:**

The **New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA)** has also played an active role in the same battle for a fair, equitable, predictable, and sustainable Foundation aid formula,. Led by Rob Schneider and supported by a fantastic Board of Directors led by President Sandra Ruffo, and the highly skilled team of Brian Fessler, Caroline Bobick, John Daley, and Kourtney Li of the Government Relations division. The contribution of these folks to many of our goals demonstrates the universality of the concepts of the Statewide School Finance Consortium and the CNYSBA. And let's not forget Patrick Longo, of Member Relations, who never fails to deliver an inspirational message to us at our annual meeting each May.

Further, NYSSBA provided many services to school board members. Their educational programs for school board members on a myriad of topics are on target, timely and effective.

The NYSSBA leadership for regional School Board Associations (**SBA**s) is laudable through the use of the Council of Local School Boards Association (**COLSBA**) where regional SBAs can get together and gather information, compare notes, and move to action. Many of these SBAs have requested and received workshops from the SSFC this year.

The **New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS, The Council)** led by Dr. Chuck Dedrick provides additional support to SSFC goals with the help and support of the very able and dedicated Bob Lowry, Deputy Director for Advocacy, Research & Communications and Greg Berck, Assistant Director for Governmental Relations. Keen observers of the politics of state aid and their willingness to espouse many of the state aid and related goals of SSFC and CNYSBA are a testament to their values of cooperation and collegiality.

NYSCOSS continues to champion school district goals that empower superintendents and board members to engage in dialogue and strategies to enhance the fiscal capacity of school district across the state. I have had the fortunate opportunity throughout the year to also provide workshops to various superintendent groups across the state for SSFC have numerous finance topics that they have found helpful and informative.

The **Association of School Business Officials (ASBO)** led by Brian Cechnicki, Executive Director, and Dr. Alissandra T. Stoyan, Director of Education and Research have also championed many SSFC initiatives related to state aid and other finance issues. Their involvement in effort to encourage legislators to embrace fair, equitable, predictable, and sustainable Foundation Aid improvements have been noteworthy.

I have had the fortunate opportunity throughout the year to also provide workshops to various ASBO chapters across the state for SSFC with numerous finance topic that they have found valuable and instructive.

Let's not forget the wonderful BOCES District Superintendents that let us provide workshops for their component school superintendents, board members, and school business officials along with BOCES board members and administrators. From the North Country to the border with Pennsylvania, SSFC has been encouraged and welcomed to work with these fantastic leaders. And there is more to come in the 2025-26 school year.

We have many advocates that have come to assist, and we are grateful.

We must renew our effort to improve the Foundation Aid formula. I'm gearing up right now. I've still got a big list!

Be well,

Rick



**PLEASE SEE IMPORTANT DATE CHANGES BELOW FOR NEW BOARD MEMBER TRAININGS**

To best support our members, **CNYSBA** is *rescheduling* the upcoming **New Board Member Trainings** (*Governance, Finance, and Child Abuse*). With the NYSSBA Conference and several other events occurring around the same time, we want to maximize attendance and ensure that as many new Board Members as possible can take advantage of these important in-person training opportunities.

***New dates as available are listed below.***



**GOVERNANCE TRAINING**

**NEW DATE:**  
**OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**



**CHILD ABUSE TRAINING**  
*MANDATED REPORTER\**

**NEW DATE:**  
**OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**



**FINANCE TRAINING**

**NEW DATE:**  
**NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

*We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this may cause. Our goal is to ensure the training is impactful and valuable for both the participants and the presenters.*

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR A TRAINING OR VIEW OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!](#)**



Contact Us  
**ASHLEY@CNYSBA.ORG**



Visit Our Website  
**WWW.CNYSBA.ORG**



# BUSINESS PARTNERS

## Investing in Leadership, Education, and Community Success

At the Central New York School Boards Association (CNYSBA), our Business Partners are more than sponsors—they are trusted allies in our mission to strengthen public education. Their generous support fuels professional development, leadership training, and resources that help school board members rise to the growing responsibilities of serving their communities.

## A Shared Commitment to Public Education

Our Business Partners represent a diverse network of companies that share a deep commitment to the future of public education. Each partner brings unique expertise and services that directly benefit our school districts—whether through legal guidance, construction excellence, insurance solutions, or innovative design. We are proud to recognize and work alongside these organizations whose values align with our mission

## Support Those Who Support You

We encourage our members to explore and connect with the businesses that make our work possible.

By choosing to work with CNYSBA Business Partners, you are reinvesting in the strength and success of Central New York's schools.

CURRENT CENTRAL NEW YORK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION BUSINESS PARTNERS



AUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL

BOND SCHOENECK & KING



CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT GROUP

C & S COMPANIES



EASTERN SHORE INSURANCE AGENCY

FERRARA FIORENZA

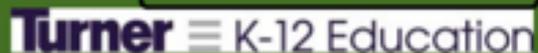


KING & KING ARCHITECTS



LECHASE CONSTRUCTION

TURNER CONSTRUCTION



# 2025-2026 Best U.S. High School Rankings

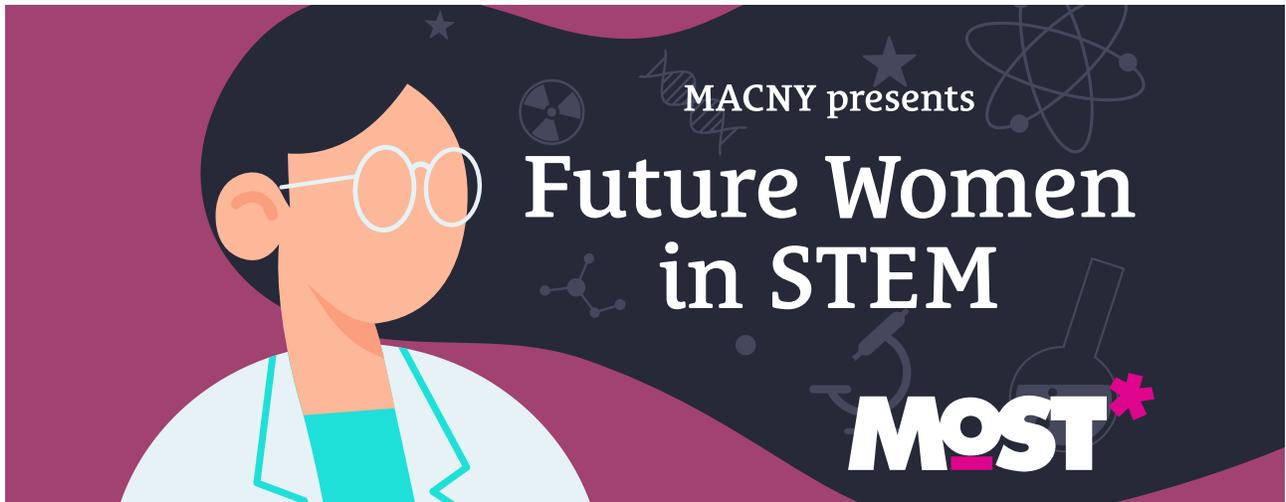


The U.S. News Best High Schools rankings include data on more than 24,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Nearly 18,000 schools were ranked on six factors based on their performance on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college.

It's never too late to start thinking about the college journey. Try [College Compass](#) today to get a head start, and easily find the right fit for your student.

[Click here for full report.](#)



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



**For:** Girls in 6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> grades and guests

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

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

**FREE** participation and museum admission for students and families



**2025–2026 Schedule**

<b>OCT 11</b>	<b>Schneider Packaging</b> The Human Superpower Behind Robots	<b>FEB 14</b>	<b>IBEW LU 43</b> Time to Turn On the Lights
<b>NOV 8</b>	<b>Hueber-Breuer</b> Build the Future: Girls on Site	<b>MAR 14</b>	<b>LOTTE Biologics</b> The Fascinating Science Behind Medicine: A Hands-On Discovery
<b>DEC 13</b>	<b>Cornell Cooperative Extension Madison County</b> Very Berry DNA: Farming, Forensics & Future Scientists	<b>APR 11</b>	<b>Crouse</b> The Most Amazing “Machine” is Closer Than You Think! (It’s You!)
<b>JAN 10</b>	<b>Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo &amp; Budmen Industries</b> Questions, Creatures, and Conservation	<b>MAY 9</b>	<b>INFICON</b> Spark & Stitch: Hands-on Electronics



Learn more and register online at [most.org/future-women-in-stem](https://most.org/future-women-in-stem)





OCTOBER IS

# MFG MONTH

PRESENTED BY [BUILDSUBMARINES.COM](http://BUILDSUBMARINES.COM)



## EXPLORE MODERN MANUFACTURING WITH YOUR STUDENTS!

MACNY, The Manufacturers Association, and Partners for Education & Business, Inc. (PEB) will celebrate New York State Manufacturing Month with tours and hands-on activities at local companies across Central New York and the Mohawk Valley throughout October.

Students and educators will be able to see how products you use every day are made right here in our region – from electronics to food items and more!



## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US

- ✓ Coordination of tour logistics with local MACNY member companies.
- ✓ Regular communication as the intermediary between you and your tour site.
- ✓ Facilitation of registration in preparation of your class for the day of your tour.
- ✓ Ways to continue connecting your class with local manufacturing career pathways.

## REGISTER TODAY

Dates:

Central New York Dates: 10/1, 10/2, and 10/3

Mohawk Valley Dates: 10/23 and 10/24

Times:

9 AM - 10:15 AM or 11 AM - 12:15 PM



Scan the QR code, or email us with questions at [pebteam@macny.org](mailto:pebteam@macny.org).

# New NYSSBA Report Highlights Local Strategies for Addressing Teacher Shortages

*Report from NYSSBA, August 25, 2025*

School districts in New York that are experiencing teacher shortages can take concrete steps on their own to enhance recruitment and retention of classroom instructors, according to a report by the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA).

NYSSBA's report, entitled "Plug and Play: Strategies for Addressing Teacher Shortages at the Local Level," found that teacher shortages in New York continue to be concentrated mainly in a few select subjects – career and technical education, health science, English language arts, science, special education, and library media specialist.

"Finding qualified teachers that are a good fit for a community's schools is vitally important, both to improving student achievement and reducing the costs associated with teacher turnover," said NYSSBA Executive Director Robert Schneider. Expenses related to recruiting, hiring and onboarding new teachers can run as much as \$25,000 for each teacher who leaves employment, noted Schneider.

NYSSBA's report highlights strategies that school districts can take at the local level to address hiring challenges and improve teacher retention. These include:

Applying for teacher residency and apprenticeship programs. New York State has programs that provide training, mentoring and stipends to novice teachers.

Developing "Grow Your Own" partnerships. Districts should explore "Grow Your Own" initiatives designed to motivate individuals within a school or community to consider a career in teaching and offering those individuals assistance in obtaining certification.

Building relationships with community colleges. Effective community college programs can strengthen the pipeline to offset teacher shortages.

Reevaluating teacher compensation. Offering more attractive compensation may be a good way to attract potential teachers to the profession and reduce the amount spent on recruiting, hiring and onboarding new teachers due to teacher turnover.

Conducting stay talks. A "stay talk" is a conversation principals can have with teachers to address any concerns they may have. Research has shown that this simple intervention can boost retention by two-thirds or more.

"We hope school boards will consider the key strategies outlined in this report to help resolve teacher shortages," said Schneider.

Click [here](#) to view the report from NYSSBA.

# CNYSBA IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE



# STUDENT EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER TRAINING

The Central New York School Boards Association (CNYSBA) is excited to announce a new professional development opportunity in response to the Governor's recent requirements for Board of Education Student Ex-Officio Members in New York State. **A Special Thanks to our Business Partner C&S COMPANIES** we are able to offer this training to the **Students and Parents AT NO COST** for all CNYSBA member districts.

## TRAINING INFO:

**Date:** September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Time:** 10:30am - 3:30pm

**Cost:** FREE

This Training is designed to help these new student leaders better understand their roles, responsibilities, and the governance process.

## TRAINING DETAILS:

- Presentations from Colleen Heinrich (Ferrara Fiorenza), Bonnie Russell (W.Gennessee SRO), & Dr. Richard Timbs (SSFC)
- Breakout Session
- Panel Discussion (Superintendent, Principal, Student Board Member, Parent, & Board President)

*\*\*\*Light Breakfast and Full Lunch will be provided to all registrants\*\*\**

## Hosted By:



## Sponsored By:



**REGISTRATION LINK:** <https://form.jotform.com/252225883924160>